



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Japan: Premier Urges 'Immediate' Halt to Lebanon Hostilities

OW1904061496 Tokyo KYODO in English
0500 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto called Friday [18 April] for an immediate cessation of hostilities in southern Lebanon between Israel and the Shiite Muslim guerrilla group Hizballah.

"I have been deeply worried about the recent deterioration of the Lebanese situation, because it could threaten stability in the region," he said in a statement.

Hashimoto, in Moscow attending a nuclear safety summit of leaders of the Group of Seven major economic powers plus Russia and Ukraine, called Thursday's Israeli shelling in Lebanon "extremely regrettable."

Citing the need to move along the ongoing Middle East peace process, he called on all parties concerned to stop the use of force immediately.

He also expressed Japan's readiness to do all it can to stabilize the situation there in cooperation with other countries.

The Israeli shelling of a U.N. peacekeepers base in southern Lebanon killed more than 100 civilians who had taken shelter there. The 4,570-member U.N. interim force in Lebanon have been stationed in the south of the country since 1978.

In Tokyo, Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda also called the Israeli attack regrettable and urged an immediate cessation of the violence.

Japan To Give 'Utmost Efforts' To Promote Mideast Peace

OW1904022496 Tokyo KYODO in English
0204 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — Japan wants an immediate halt to armed clashes in Lebanon and hopes for smooth progress in the ongoing Middle East peace process, Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said Friday [18 April].

Ikeda, calling Thursday's Israeli shelling in Lebanon "regrettable," said in a statement that Tokyo hopes all parties concerned will stop the use of force immediately.

He also said Japan will give its utmost efforts to help move along the Mideast peace process.

The Israeli shelling of a U.N. peacekeepers base in southern Lebanon killed 110 people, including civilians who were sheltered there, Israeli radio reported.

The attack was part of Israel's recent military clashes with the Shiite Muslim Guerrilla group Hizballah.

Japan: Okinawa Governor Comments on SACO Interim Report

OW1904093996 (Internet) Okinawa Prefecture WWW in English 18 Apr 96

[Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota's comment on the interim report by the Special Action Committee on Okinawa [SACO] issued on 15 April]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Special Action Committee on Okinawa, a joint committee of U.S. and Japanese officials which has been discussing the reduction and realignment of the U.S. military bases in Okinawa, announced measures for the reduction and realignment of bases in Okinawa in an interim report on April 15, 1996. Okinawa's Governor Masahide Ota commented as follows.

The Governor's Comment on SACO Interim Report

Today, the Special Action Committee on Okinawa, or SACO, announced its interim report on the reduction and realignment of the U.S. military bases in Okinawa.

Okinawa Prefecture has presented an action program for the realization of its Cosmopolitan City Plan, while asking the central Government for planned and gradational return of the military bases. We have especially requested the return of 10 facilities by the year 2001. The Futenma Air Field, one of these 10 facilities, is extremely dangerous and has hindered the development of the city as it is located in the middle of a residential area.

We are pleased with the interim report that shows progress in the reduction of military bases, such as the complete return of the Futenma Air Field, Ginbaru Training Area, Sobe Communication Site and Senaha Communication Station.

However, according to the report, existing facilities will be transferred to other areas and facilities already being used in Okinawa. In this respect, the report does not meet the Prefecture's demands for reduction and realignment of the bases and the Okinawan people would not be completely satisfied with it.

As for the live firing exercises over Prefectural Highway 104, we appreciate the decision made by Japanese and U.S. officials to terminate them, for this was the most urgent of the three main issues whose resolutions we had sought. We hope that the transfer of the aircraft terminal of Kadena to the interior part of the base will result in the reduction of aircraft noise.

Although some progress in the resolution of Okinawa's base-related issues is seen in the interim report, much still needs to be settled. Okinawa Prefecture will continue its effort with Japanese and U.S. Governments for the resolution of base-related problems.

April 15, 1996

Masahide Ota
Governor
Okinawa Prefecture

Japan: Okinawa Governor Ota on MCAS Base Issue

OW1804113696 Tokyo AERA in Japanese 22 Apr 96 pp 23

[Summary of remarks by Governor Masahide Ota of Okinawa at an interview with AERA editor Yosuke Iso; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was not the rape of a young girl that led me to think I should refuse to sign the documents [needed by the central government to continue providing land for the U.S. forces]. But it is because former Assistant Secretary of Defense Nye (now a professor at Harvard University) has reaffirmed the Japan-U.S. security alliance with a strategic report (United States Security Strategy for the East Asia-Pacific Region) released in February last year calling for the semipermanent maintenance of U.S. military bases on Okinawa.

The report has an impact on all the people of Okinawa. I wonder if Mr. Nye has ever thought that there are 1.3 million flesh-and-blood people living in Okinawa.

During the war, we students were organized into a student army. We were ordered to walk all night from Shuri to Yomitan, and to build an airfield there because the Imperial headquarters in Tokyo had considered having an airfield in Okinawa would enable the Japanese forces to prevent the landing of U.S. troops. However, when the U.S. forces was about to make a landing, Japan did not have any airplanes. So the headquarters ordered us, this time, to destroy the airfield in one day so that the Americans would not use it to attack mainland Japan. [The East Asia Strategic Report] reminds me of the mistake — people far away from the spot plan a strategy without knowing the situation on the spot — that we experienced with a vengeance during the war.

Okinawa Part of Sovereign State; Not Under U.S. Occupation

In Okinawa, we are unable to use not only land but also 15 zones of the sky that are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. forces. In addition, 29 areas of the sea are

controlled by the U.S. military. So we cannot use land, nor the sky, nor the sea.

Speaking of the Status of Forces Agreement too, the vehicles of U.S. forces do not bear license plates at all. Then the problem is that when a hit-and-run accident occurs, there is no way to verify who is to blame for the accident.

Are these kinds of things supposed to happen in a sovereign nation? Okinawa is not under U.S. occupation. Okinawa is part of Japan — a sovereign state in its own right. What do you think Okinawa is?

When we ask for the reduction of bases, the Japanese Government often says that we have to endure the burden because the Japan-U.S. security treaty is important for protecting Japan's peace and safety. If that is the case, then its responsibility and burden have to be shouldered equally (by all the people of Japan).

Also in the trial, there was almost no substantial discussion. Now there is a law to promote decentralization, and the practice of assigning the central government's administrative work to the local governments is being reviewed along the lines that it should be abolished. Amid this trend, is it all right to tell a governor, treating him as if he was appointed by the central government, to obey what the central government tells him to do without asking questions?

The U.S. Government has clearly said that, if the Japanese Government requests, it would remove all the bases from Okinawa, or relocate them to where Japan asks. However, the Japanese Government tells us doing so is difficult because the United States would not easily agree.

And in the political arena, the so-called defense people take this opportunity, and show a move to consider the issues of collective defense and amending the constitution.

By citing the recent trouble between China and Taiwan or the threat of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), they claim the U.S. bases on Okinawa are thus necessary.

But most Okinawans have never seen the North Koreans nor have they talked with them. It is incomprehensible why the North Koreans would be an enemy.

Japan, as a sovereign state, should speak out. I have told former Prime Minister Murayama as well as Prime Minister Hashimoto, "Please speak frankly to the United States. It says it will deal flexibly with our requests." But...

I have been telling both Japanese and U.S. Governments, "A base is fully functional when the local people support it. But a base which is surrounded by people against it would be virtually useless in the case of an emergency, as the case of the Vietnam War illustrates. If you really think friendship between the two countries is important, reducing the number of the bases would do it more good than harm."

Autonomous Growth Impossible Without Resolving Base Issue

While paying attention to changes in the external situation, we would like to turn Okinawa into a base for promoting international exchanges, and to form a good neighborly relations and friendship with neighboring countries and areas of East Asia, as the Ryukyu Kingdom [1429-1879] once did. We would like to keep this small island in peace.

The U.S. military bases take up the main areas of the cities. Residents cannot return to their hometowns. So they had to live around the bases, and towns were formed in a sprawl. While there are more than 1 million citizens living in the southern and central parts of Okinawa, the existence of the bases is an obstacle to constructing roads. Ports cannot be linked up with the airport. Building a well-organized city is simply impossible.

There is a law effective for a 10-year period. This is the fifth year of the third Okinawa Development and Promotion Project. In the past 24 years, a total of 4.3 trillion yen has been invested in public work projects, yet the income level of Okinawa continues to be the lowest among other prefectures in Japan. The investment has not led to a reduction in Okinawa's high unemployment ratio either. Nor has it led to laying the foundations for an autonomous development.

So that is why I say that nobody can raise the income standard or settle the serious unemployment issue unless the base issue is resolved. I think so from an objective viewpoint as a researcher.

The resolution of the base issue is a problem that we cannot avoid. No matter how difficult it may be, we should not simply give up.

Japan: 'Conflicts' Reported on MCAS Base Relocation Cost

OW1904044096 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 19 Apr 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Conflicts arose in the government and the ruling parties on 18 April over the revenue source to cover relocation expenses for U.S. military bases based on the interim report of the Japan-U.S. Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO), which includes the complete return of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma (in Ginowan city, Okinawa Prefecture), among other things.

The Defense Agency (DA), which wants to avoid a "virtual reduction" in the defense budget, asserts that such expenses should be separate from the regular defense allocation. On the other hand, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) insists that it should be part of defense spending. A difference in position has already emerged at this early point in time.

On 16 April, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto stated that "this will be impossible within the framework of the present defense budget; the nature of the allocation is different," supporting separate appropriations. However, he later modified his position, saying: "At this point, it would be absurd to talk about whether funds should come from the defense budget or from separate appropriations." This shows the difficulty of dealing with a fiscal issue.

According to the DA's estimate during SACO negotiation process, relocation of the Futenma base will take 300 to 400 billion yen. The grand total for Futenma and the other facilities to be returned adds up to 600 to 800 billion yen.

There is serious concern in the DA about a reduction of funds for frontline equipment. Many officials have stated their demand for separate appropriations. Seiji Ema, chief of the DA secretary general's secretariat, says: "From what has transpired so far, it is desirable to make allocations separate from existing defense spending."

In contrast, the MOF thinks that a majority of the expenses associated with the relocation of bases has to do with "construction" and "relocation" of U.S. military facilities, which can be handled within the framework of the defense budget. It is not willing to change the fiscal framework. A senior official of the Budget Bureau claims: "If specific expenditures are funded outside the framework of the defense budget, the growth of the defense spending will run out of control."

At a news conference on 17 April, MOF administrative vice minister Tadashi Ogawa talked about fiscal measures for base relocation and referred to it as "a question of the defense budget." He said: "It would be a matter of prioritizing among such items as frontline equipment, personnel cost, and operational expenditures."

The senior Budget Bureau official mentioned earlier also said that the total cost estimated by the DA is

"absolutely groundless. How can you talk about money even before the relocation sites and facilities to be returned are finalized?" He was evidently irritated at premature talk about fiscal spending.

Such differences have also had an impact on the ruling parties. Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] Policy Research Council, says: "The construction of new facilities will naturally require separate allocations. Most of the cost will be separate appropriations." He supports the DA. The Social Democratic Party [SDP] opposes this position. A senior SDP official claims: "If separate allocations are to be made, there should naturally be a reduction in other defense spending." There is a growing gap between the LDP and the SDP.

Japan: Official Notes 'Negative Stance' on Base Cost Issue

OW1804123096 Tokyo KYODO in English
1105 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO — Vice Finance Minister Tadashi Ogawa showed a negative stance Thursday [18 April] toward the idea of introducing an extra budgetary quota for the partial transfer of the functions of U.S. military facilities in Okinawa prefecture.

"The transfer cost issue should be considered within the framework of the ordinary defense budget," Ogawa said at a news conference.

On Monday, Japan and the United States agreed on the scaling back and closure of some U.S. military facilities in Okinawa prefecture.

There are calls in the ruling coalition for a special budget quota to cover costs for transferring the functions of some U.S. bases on the island prefecture to other areas in Japan.

Japan: Okinawa Party Leaders Hold Base Issue Symposium

OW1904092296 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO (Morning Edition) in Japanese 19 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the announcement of the Japan-U.S. declaration on security at the Japan-U.S. summit talks held on 17 April, RYUKYU SHIMPO sponsored an emergency forum of representatives from various political parties in the prefecture on 18 April.

The participants are divided in their opinions on the new orientation of the Japan-U.S. alliance as indicated in the announced declaration. While representatives from the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Okinawa Prefecture Federation and also from Sakigake [Harbinger Party]

Okinawa Chapter stated a certain appraisal of the declaration, representatives from other five parties expressed their concerns over the possible review of the security arrangement without consulting the people.

The other five parties are the Social Democratic Party [SDP] Okinawa Chapter; the Okinawa Socialist Masses Party [OSMP]; Shinshinto [New Frontier Party, NFP] Okinawa Chapter; the Komei Okinawa, and the Japan Communist Party [JCP] Okinawa Chapter.

Regarding the conditional return of the Air Station Futenma, the representatives from the three parties, including the OSMP, the JCP and Komei Okinawa, clearly stated that the decision should be reviewed. In the future, Governor Masahide Ota will be asked to launch by proxy procedures for public notification in connection with enforced use of the military land. Concerning this issue, the representatives from the LDP and Sakigake Okinawa Chapter pointed out that the Supreme Court's verdict on the lawsuit concerning the proxy signing as well as the opinion of the Okinawan people should be respected. On the other hand, however, the representatives from the other five parties demanded that the governor should reject the proxy launching of procedures for public notification.

Those present at the forum are: Kokichi Iramina, secretary general of the LDP Okinawa Prefecture Federation; Shinsuke Tomoyose, vice chairman of the SDP Okinawa Chapter; Masaharu Kina, OSMP secretary general; Seizen Hokama, secretary general of the NFP Okinawa Chapter; Seiken Akamine, chairman of the JCP Okinawa Chapter; Tomonori Itosu, secretary general of Komei Okinawa; and Noboru Shimajiri, representative of the Sakigake Okinawa Chapter.

All the Okinawa prefectural ruling parties hope that the governor will reject proxy launching of the procedures for public notification. While SDP Vice Chairman Tomoyose stated that "it is hoped that the governor will persist in the position that he has taken so far," OSMP Secretary General Kina stated: "As far as those documents that landowners cannot sign are concerned, it is quite natural for heads of all local governments, including the governor, to oppose signing." JCP Chairman Akamine pointed out that "if we would like to have all the bases abolished, it would be only natural to reject the public notification." And Komei Secretary-General Itosu said: "The Okinawan people are taking the base-related issue into a serious consideration now. Since both the appeal and public notification involve claiming of rights, it is important to clearly state the intention to reject."

There is a delicate difference in the views among the opposition parties. LDP Secretary-General Iramina

stated: "Since ours is a law-governed country, we hope that the governor will wait for the Supreme Court's final decision." In this way, he asked for taking a cautious approach toward the public notification. However, NFP Secretary-General Hokkama went so far as to say: "While the appeal is still in progress, if the governor should agree to proxy launching of (the procedures for public notification), it would be a farce and betraying the Okinawan people." And Sakigake Representative Shimajiri said: "It is the governor himself who should decide on whether procedures for public notification should be launched or not. If the prefectural residents support his decision, there is nothing we can do."

Japan: Chatan Assembly Opposes Relocation of Futenma Units

OW1904053896 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO (Evening Edition) in Japanese 18 Apr 96 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Chatan — In connection with the complete return of Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma, a plan to relocate some helicopter units stationed at Futenma to Kadena Air Base [KAB] has surfaced. Regarding this, the Chatan Town Assembly (chaired by Choki Yogi) convened an extraordinary session at 1100 on 18 April and unanimously adopted a protest resolution and a statement expressing its "determined opposition to buildup of KAB in connection with the complete return of MCAS Futenma."

These documents will be addressed to the U.S. president, the U.S. ambassador to Japan, the U.S. consul general in Okinawa, the Japanese prime minister, and nine other concerned officials. On 19 April, representatives of the Chatan Town Assembly and Mayor Choichi Hentona will petition the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau and the Okinawa governor after handing them the statement.

Japan: Article Focuses on Relocation of Okinawa Bases

OW1904081396 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 16 Apr 96 p 4

[By ASAHI SHIMBUN editorial staff Shunji Taoka]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto was personally involved in the negotiations on return of U.S. Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma and obtained a "visible result." Under the current situation, this may be the best compromise we could hope for. However, the "land" issue is not the sole matter people are dissatisfied with. Among other things, the danger of crimes and accidents and the possibility of other military bases taking root are also problems. The latter will not be settled even if the same

number of aircraft and troops are moved to Kadena Air Base and MCAS Iwakuni. Judging from the fact that about 10 serious crimes have been committed each year by U.S. soldiers, it is difficult to completely prevent incidents or accidents from happening again. People who live near the bases where the military facilities will be relocated are furiously opposed to the plan, and it has already been pointed out that the plan may be kept on the shelf. Settlement of the issue would be easy if the troop strength of the U.S. Forces in Japan [USFJ] could be reduced, but there is a deep-rooted wish not only in the United States but also among Japanese Foreign Ministry officials and conservative politicians to keep the current troop strength. Some of them are even saying that "the Japan-U.S. alliance will be ruined, Japan and the United States will be opposed to each other, and Japan has to prepare itself for a war with the United States [taiseisen] if troop strength is reduced." As we look ahead to the future of the Japan-U.S. alliance, however, we may need to reconsider whether we really need to maintain the status quo of the U.S. military presence in Japan.

The People Have Already Freed Themselves From the "Set Menu Psychology"

Discussing Japan's security during the cold-war era was like making an order from only two different set menus. There were six dishes — firm maintenance of defense capability, friendly ties between Japan and the United States, the alliance, USFJ stationing, military bases in Okinawa, and financial support to the U.S. military — in "Set Menu A." As opposed to this, disarmament, anti-U.S. sentiment, elimination of the Japan-U.S. security treaty, anti-base sentiment, and others are in "Set Menu B." The Social Democratic Party [SDP] always ordered Set Menu B for a long time but quickly changed its preference and started to order Set Menu A when a prime minister, the supreme commander of the Self-Defense Forces, was selected from the SDP.

However, after the global "East-West" confrontation vanished as the cold war ended, the "left or right wing" concept, which was a domestic reflection of the international confrontation, became outdated as a matter of course. The number of people who want to order a la carte meals instead of set meals increased. While advocating the need for friendly ties between Japan and the United States and approving maintenance of the security treaty, Governor Masahide Ota of Okinawa Prefecture calls for dissolving the heavy concentration of U.S. military bases in Okinawa. An ASAHI SHIMBUN opinion poll announced on 11 November, 1995, shows that 64 percent of the people support maintenance of the Japan-U.S. security treaty, while 73 percent hope

for a reduction of U.S. military bases. Moreover, as for Japan's shouldering 70 percent of USFJ stationing costs, 73 percent of the people thinks it is "too much." Many Japanese people have already freed themselves from the ideological "set menu psychology" of the Cold War era.

Alliances are not always accompanied by stationing of foreign military. The Anglo-Japanese Alliance, which lasted 19 years, from 1902 to 1921, until the Britain refused to renew it, said that if either Japan or Britain was involved in a war with the invader (Russia) of China and Korea, the other would maintain neutrality and that both countries would take joint maneuvers when either side waged war against more than two countries. This was the purport of the treaty, and the British army did not station troops in Japan. Under the triple alliance of 1940 between Japan, Germany, and Italy — which was formed so that the three countries would cooperate by every means possible if one of them was attacked by a country (referring to the United States) that was not taking part in the war in Europe and China — the German military did not station troops in Japan.

Five Countries Host Over 10,000 U.S. Troops

Historically, stationing of foreign forces took place mainly in countries or areas regarded as protectorates or colonies. The great powers obtained "troop stationing rights" in Beijing after the 1900 Boxer Rebellion, and the Japanese Army stationed troops in Korea and northeastern China following the Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars. Today, the United States has alliances with over 50 countries; according to the 1995-1996 edition of *MILITARY BALANCE*, however, only five of those countries — Germany (86,000), Japan (45,000), the ROK (36,000), Italy (12,000), and the UK (11,000) — accept over 10,000 U.S. troops. Except for the UK, which received U.S. support during World War II, those countries were all under U.S. occupation after the war. The situation is almost the same with stationing of former Soviet forces in East Europe.

The U.S. dispatches no troops to other allies — Canada, France, Denmark, Norway, and New Zealand — and only 370 U.S. troops are in Australia.

The Philippines used to offer Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Base to the United States in exchange for U.S. economic assistance amounting to \$480 million per year. The U.S. had to withdraw from the Philippines in November 1991 because the Philippines Government did not extend the base agreement when the United States refused to increase economic assistance. Nevertheless, both the U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty and the bilateral friendship have been maintained since the pullout of U.S. forces, and the Philippines economy has been growing rapidly since 1992.

The U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty stipulates that the two nations should take joint action to cope with "armed attacks against either party." The North Atlantic Treaty also provides that "armed attacks against either party in Europe or North America should be regarded as aggression against all treaty powers... [ellipses as published] and all members shall support the attacked member under individual or collective defense rights."

On the other hand, the Japan-U.S. security treaty limits Japan-U.S. joint action only to attacks against "the territories under the administration of Japan." Americans have been insisting that "the treaty is unfair because the United States has the obligation to defend Japan but Japan does not have to do the same for the United States." Not a few Japanese agree with this criticism of the "unilateral" obligation.

This is true on paper. However, if some nations — the former Soviet Union, for example — had attacked "territories under the administration of the United States," it would have triggered a full-scale war between the United States and the former Soviet Union. In that case, Japan would not have been regarded as a neutral country because it offers military facilities to one of the parties to the conflict, and Japan would have inevitably been involved in the war. In this sense, there has been no practical difference between the North Atlantic Treaty and the Japan-U.S. security treaty. Taking into account Japan's defense capability, it would be difficult for Japan to offer assistance to defend the U.S. mainland, but this is almost same with the ROK, the Philippines, Latin America, and even Western Europe.

Projecting Japan's Support for U.S. Forces

The United States must have concluded the security treaty with Japan because Japan's providing U.S. facilities for free in exchange for U.S. assistance to Japan's defense efforts sounded like a deal. Furthermore, Japan is going against the provision in Article 24 of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement by bearing costs for wages for Japanese employees, construction of military facilities, and utility fees. In fiscal 1996, Japan will spend 486 billion yen, or 70 percent of the stationing costs for U.S. Forces Japan [USFJ]. U.S. criticism of Japan's free ride on the security arrangements is inappropriate, because Japan currently spends over 10 million yen every year for every single USFJ member. A new housing area in Ikego, Kanagawa Prefecture, opened earlier this month. The project to build 850 apartments on state-owned land cost 85.6 billion yen — 100 million yen in tax money paid for each apartment.

Some diplomats say "relations with the United States will be worsened if Japan takes a negative attitude

toward financial support for USFJ." This is just like the opinion of prefectural government officials who say "local governments cannot run without treats for central government officials." In a way, Japan's support for USFJ is a "nation-to-nation treat." No other nations spend such a large amount of money for stationing U.S. forces. According to a U.S. Defense Department report to Congress in 1994, expenditures of the UK and Germany for U.S. forces in 1993 were \$46 million and \$248 million respectively (neither figure includes indirect costs, such as estimated rents of state-owned land sites offered to U.S. forces), or about 1 and 5 percent of Japan's expenditure.

If the Japan-U.S. security treaty were revised to a "bilateral" treaty, Japan would pledge to undertake joint operations with the United States to cope with attacks against "the territories under the administration of the United States." If Japan demanded that the United States host 94 bases and facilities on the U.S. mainland for the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and bear 70 percent of costs for SDF stationing in exchange for the pledge, the United States would be very surprised and would refuse.

Less Important Units Should Withdraw

Moreover, the ongoing debates on collective defense rights for "emergencies" are ever looking at the ROK and Taiwan, although Japan has no defined alliance with the ROK and both Japan and the United States recognize Taiwan as a "part of China." In this sense, Japan's collective defense is totally different from that of NATO nations. If Japan is obligated to take joint action with the United States when the United States defends its allies or intervenes in foreign civil wars, it is just like giving a blank power of attorney to the United States, since Japan has no choice as to its indirect allies.

Since November 1995, I have contributed a monthly series of articles on the strategic environment surrounding Japan — the U.S. Marines (11 November), the Korean peninsula (12 November), China and Taiwan (19 January), USFJ (25 February), and Russian forces in the Far East (22 March). In this series I tried to explain that threats are generally declining in the region around Japan and that reduction of USFJ is possible.

On the other hand, nuclear missiles owned by Russia and China are still great potential threats, and the alliance with the United States apparently defends Japan from nuclear threats. The United States wants to maintain the alliance with Japan as a precaution against nuclear armament of Japan as a great economic power. Even if the United States had to streamline its military forces further for fiscal reform, it would not lose its position as a naval superpower. Just as the UK resolved to maintain its control over the Strait of Gibraltar as

the gateway to the Mediterranean even at the risk of conflict with Spain, the United States will try to secure its right to use Yokosuka as the foundation of U.S. naval supremacy in the Western Pacific. As Japan has no intention to possess its own nuclear weapons and the sea lanes will remain the lifeline of Japan, conflict with the U.S. Navy over regional naval supremacy is not a possible option for Japan. Therefore, Japan and the United States have common interests in two main factors of U.S. strategy — "nuclear weapons" and "naval fleets."

Taking into account intensifying mutual economic dependence, basically shared values, and diplomatic harmony between the two nations, a partial reduction or pullout of USFJ is unlikely to result in a collapse of the Japan-U.S. friendship. Rather, the Japan-U.S. alliance will last longer by reducing public resistance to problematic or less important USFJ units.

Japan: Spokesman Reiterates Stand on Collective Defense

OW1904062396 Tokyo KYODO in English
0406 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — Japan will maintain its traditional interpretation that the use of the right of collective defense is prohibited under the Constitution, top government spokesman Seiroku Kajiyama said Friday [18 April].

Kajiyama, the chief cabinet secretary, made the remark in connection with a study on defense cooperation with the United States in emergency cases.

He said, "We will maintain our traditional view... [ellipses as received] Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has said (the government) will not change" Japan's traditional position.

Last November, when Japan adopted a new defense program for the post-Cold War era, then chief cabinet secretary Koken Nosaka issued a statement, saying, "It is natural that there is no change in traditional government views on such issues as the exercise of the right of collective defense which is banned under the Constitution."

In a separate statement issued in 1981, the government said Japan has the right of collective defense under international law but the use of the right is prohibited under the Constitution, which bans the country from using force as a means of settling international disputes.

Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton issued a joint declaration on security alliance Wednesday, and said they have agreed to initiate a review of the 1978 guidelines for Japan-U.S. defense cooperation.

The two leaders also agreed to "promote bilateral policy coordination, including studies on bilateral cooperation in dealing with situations that may emerge in the areas surrounding Japan."

Defense Agency Chief Hideo Usui told reporters Friday the government will study what it can do for defense cooperation in cases of emergency within the framework of the Constitution.

Japan: Unions Oppose Japan-U.S. Security Declaration

OW1904091696 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 18 Apr 96 p 28

[FBIS Translated Text] On 17 April, the Japan Federation of Press Workers' Unions (with Chairman Hajime Kitamura) expressed its opposition to the Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security, saying that it will strengthen and expand the bilateral security treaty.

The statement says: "The Japanese Government and the Self Defense Forces have sought to support U.S. forces' independent operations by providing them with munitions and places. However, this will lead to the use of 'collective self-defense rights' banned by the Constitution."

Japan: Article Discusses Collective Self-Defense Rights

OW1904091896 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 12 Apr 96 p 2

[3d and last in series of articles entitled "Study on Security and Okinawa": "Is the Diet Left Out of the Discussion?"; by Hirohito Saito of the TOKYO SHIMBUN Political Department]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prior to the Japan-U.S. summit, which will mark an epoch in the bilateral security relationship, the Japan Association of Corporate Executives' Security Research Council issued a provocative report.

It says: "The time has come to reconsider the government's view that use of the collective self-defense rights is unconstitutional."

At a news conference held on 9 April, the day the provocative proposal was reported, Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama first said, in a cautious tone, that collective self-defense rights need to be discussed from the constitutional viewpoint. He then added: "(In situations that might happen) near Japan, there are areas where we cannot clearly define whether Japan's involvement in them would be (regarded as) use of collective self-defense rights. In this context, we should swiftly study how much Japan can do within the range of col-

lective self-defense rights stipulated in the bilateral security treaty."

In a speech on 10 April, Taku Yamasaki, chairman of The Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] Policy Research Committee, said: "We should decide if Japan can extend assistance, (such as refueling), to (U.S. forces) aircraft carriers mobilized from Japan for gray situations like the recent cross-strait tension, which was neither an emergency nor a peaceful situation."

In view of the tensions on Korean peninsula and in the Taiwan Strait, leaders of the government and the LDP have kept their minds on the "changing security arrangements."

Getting to the bottom of bilateral security arrangements after the end of the cold war, discussion will finally focus on how Japan, particularly the Self-Defense Forces [SDF], should cooperate with the U.S. forces if an emergency arises in the Far East.

Such discussion has been conducted based on the "Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation." The bilateral joint declaration that will be exchanged between the leaders of the two nations is expected to urge efforts to fill the gap in the guidelines. So far, it has gone into detail only about an "emergency in Japan" and has failed to discuss an "emergency in the Far East."

The LDP Security Committee's meeting was held on 11 April with participation by Defense Policy Bureau Chief Masahiro Akiyama of the Defense Agency and other concerned officials. At the meeting, the government gave its view that in providing assistance to the United States in case of an emergency in the Far East, "it is possible for Japan to allow the U.S. forces temporary use of SDF facilities and civilian airports and ports."

Besides, the possibility of providing U.S. forces with various assistance such as refueling, repair of warships and aircraft, and transportation of materials has surfaced. The government has refrained from using the collective self-defense right, saying that "the present interpretation of the Constitution bans it." However, the government has already come very close to lifting its self-restraint.

In the joint declaration, the Japanese and U.S. leaders are expected to welcome the bilateral Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Accord (ACSA), which will be concluded as a step to promote defense cooperation in providing several services, such as refueling and transportation.

The accord will be applied only when the two nations are engaged in "bilateral joint drills in peacetime and in UN peacekeeping operations (PKO)" so that Japan

will not use the collective self-defense rights. However, basically, the United States has concluded the ACSA with 19 countries, including NATO member countries and South Korea, on the basic premise that emergencies will take place in those nations. Actually the government and the LDP have recognized that it is "common sense in the international community."

The ACSA also stipulates supply of arms parts. As a matter of course, there is friction between ruling and opposition parties. The Social Democratic Party [SDP] has expressed its concern that "the government's principle of banning arms exports will collapse." It is believed that coordination between them will continue immediately before conclusion of the ACSA.

The government and some LDP diet members who are familiar with defense affairs have underlined the need for reviewing collective self-defense rights as well as the need for enacting laws on emergency cases. The SDP is gravely concerned about their views. However, it cannot voice opposition loudly because it adopted the realistic policy of "firmly maintaining and strengthening the security arrangements" during the administration led by SDP head Tomiichi Murayama.

At the Japan-China foreign ministerial meeting held at the end of March, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said: "The Japan-U.S. security treaty is a bilateral pact. If they go beyond the arrangement's framework, a complicated situation would arise." Although he said this in refutation of the harsh criticism of China for conducting military drills in the Taiwan Strait, it is true that the buildup of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements has attracted Asian countries' attention.

How does Japan tackle this matter? Basically, if the bilateral security arrangements enter a new phase by undergoing drastic changes, then formalities required for treaty revision should be followed, including Diet ratification. At least this matter should be taken up for discussion by Diet members of both ruling and opposition parties, representatives of the people. However, the Diet is not functioning now, while spending enormous energy on the political row. It is in a "vacuum zone."

Japan: Meaning of Joint Security Declaration Questioned

OW1804122996 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 18 Apr 96 p 5

[Editorial: "Study of Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements — The Joint Declaration on Security Means a Substantial Revision of the Bilateral Security Treaty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton have signed

the "Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security — Alliance for the 21st century." The document formally confirms the redefinition of bilateral security ties that has been under review since autumn 1994, along with a review of the U.S. Government's strategy for Asia.

Calling attention to the dangers inherent in such a review since then, we have sought to present a different notion of what the security relationship between the two nations ought to be. We cannot help but be concerned that a completely different direction is about to be taken.

What Does the Term "Areas Surrounding Japan" Indicate?

Many people must have been surprised and concerned at the declaration and how it was described by the two leaders in their joint press conference.

The key question concerns just when the mutual security alliance between the two nations got reworked into a mechanism for deploying U.S. forces from Japan into a vast, ill-defined "Asia-Pacific" region and for providing Japanese support for such deployment.

Symbolic of the ambiguity in the declaration is the description that says, in connection with the review of the guidelines for Japan-U.S. defense cooperation, that the two nations have agreed to study bilateral cooperation to prepare for "situations that may emerge in the areas surrounding Japan."

The Japanese Government has defined the "Far East," as it appears in the Japan-U.S. security treaty, to exclude Mainland China and the DPRK. The term "areas surrounding Japan" was officially used for the first time in the new National Defense Program Outline adopted by the government last autumn. At that time, the government explained that the "areas" mean the "Far East" for the purpose of administering the security treaty, but said its effect extends to wider areas.

What is that supposed to mean?

We wonder whether the declaration amounts to a blank check to Washington concerning the boundaries of operations of U.S. forces in Japan under the security treaty, without the two governments having worked out the details and without sufficient Diet deliberation.

There is also a grave significance to the fact that the declaration was signed by the leaders of Japan and the United States as an official document setting out mutual review of bilateral cooperation for Far East contingencies. Hashimoto should have defined to the people, before meeting with Clinton, the scope of tasks Japan might be asked to undertake under that cooperation.

There is real concern that emergency cooperation in realms that are not specifically defined would undermine the constraints imposed by the Constitution — which limits the actions Japan can take to exercise individual self-defense rights and prohibits the exercise of military force abroad — and could, in the worst case, involve Japan in an American war.

To be sure, the declaration suggests that Japan and the United States do not regard China with hostility, with the expression that the two nations "will deepen their cooperation with China." If the bilateral security arrangement were to lead to containment of China in the event of heightened tension between the United States and China, it would not be in the interest of Japan or the rest of the region.

By signing the joint declaration, which mainly aims at widening an area to be covered in the security relationship and establishing forms of cooperation for contingencies in the Far East, the Japan-U.S. security treaty has been, in substance, rewritten. The prime minister should clearly state to the people the significance of the declaration in detail and say how bilateral consultations on the redefinition of the security arrangements have been conducted.

It should be pointed out that Clinton characterized the changed security relationship as "adjusting to the challenges of the world that we now face."

The Contradiction Will Become Larger

The basic post-Cold War strategy of the United States is to ensure mobility of military deployment on a global scale to deal with regional conflicts. The President may have intended to suggest by his statement that the bases and assistance Japan offers to the United States are essential to that strategy.

Did the prime minister truly understand that when he signed the declaration? When U.S. troops stationed in Japan were dispatched to the Middle East during the Persian Gulf war without "prior consultation" with the Japanese Government, the Foreign Ministry tried the disingenuous explanation that the troops received their orders while on their way to a different location. Does the government intend to apply the same contradiction again?

The post-cold war era is not a time to establish security based on bilateral military alliances. The foundation for security must be multilateral, multi-tiered frameworks for the prevention of and peaceful solutions to regional conflicts as well as efforts made through the United Nations. If that is too hard to achieve at one stroke, efforts should be made to determine the proper combination of bilateral and multilateral alliances.

It goes without saying that close relations between Japan and the United States are essential to international stability. Behind all the smiles of the two leaders, however, security relations between Japan and the United States will still be burdened by the permanent presence of U.S. military bases and the wide perception gap regarding "allied" relations.

Japan: Editorial on Joint Security Declaration Published

OW1804144296 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN
(Morning Edition) in Japanese 18 Apr 96 p 2

[Editorial: "The Japan-U.S. Security Relationship Enters a New Phase"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japan-U.S. summit meeting between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Bill Clinton transcended diplomatic rhetoric; it was "historic." Although it will take some time to ascertain whether this word can be used in a positive sense, the summit indeed gave the impression of a new era in Japan-U.S. relations. Discussions were not focused on economic issues, indicating that economic ties between the two countries are past the worst phase. Above all, there has been a widening and deepening of the bilateral security arrangements.

In the bilateral relationship, this is the first time under the Clinton administration that one leader has visited his counterpart in the other's capital to hold a full-fledged summit meeting. When Clinton came to Japan in July 1993, he was attending the Tokyo Summit. Former Prime Ministers Kiichi Miyazawa, Morihiro Hosokawa, and Tomiichi Murayama did visit Washington, but they did not accomplish much.

While in some cases the problem was the lack of a relationship of trust between the leaders of the two countries, in most cases the problem was that the summit became a venue for negotiations on economic issues. That was not the case at the present summit. Times have changed.

In the late 1980's and early 1990's, when Japan was singing praises of the bubble economy and the United States was suffering from economic recession, there were constant tensions between Japan and the United States on economic issues. Compared to that period, the trade imbalance has been corrected. While frictions on specific issues do exist, the fact that the United States did not choose to use the summit meeting as a venue to seek solutions reflects the overall change in the atmosphere.

On the other hand, there has been a failure to clearly explain the significance of the Japan-U.S. security

relationship, which was built on the basis of the cold war, in the post-cold war world. The joint declaration signed by the leaders of Japan and the United States was prepared for the purpose of making such an explanation. However, the PRC's missile tests in the Taiwan Strait and the DPRK's (North Korea) violation of the armistice argued eloquently for the importance of the Japan-U.S. security alliance even before the document was released.

We should neither overestimate nor underestimate the actions taken by China and the DPRK. Those were not military but political actions. The U.S. Navy dispatched a task force, including two aircraft carriers, to the Taiwan Strait. However, no attempts were made to enter the Chinese test area, and the activities undertaken were quite restrained. Ironically, this behavior demonstrated the United States' presence as the stabilizing mechanism in the Pacific.

The Japan-U.S. security alliance forms the basis of such a role. The joint security declaration clearly shows that the scope of the functions of the bilateral security arrangements has broadened, and the level of cooperation has deepened. This is illustrated by the signing of the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), and the start of consultations to draw up a new defense cooperation guideline designed to deal with an emergency situation in the Far East.

A thorough deliberation in the Diet is necessary to expand and strengthen security cooperation between Japan and the United States. One of the viewpoints that has to be taken into consideration in this debate is a recognition of the change in Japan's role, its growing presence, in the world.

When the present Japan-U.S. security treaty took effect in 1960, the ratio of Japanese gross domestic product (GDP) in the world was 4.1 percent. In 1994, this reached 18.2 percent. Japan has a growing presence in the world, and its interdependent relations with the world have deepened. This shows that compared to 1960, Japanese economic prosperity is premised on the stability of a much wider area in the world.

A comparison of Japanese and U.S. GDP adds a new dimension. In 1960, the U.S. GDP was 11.5 times that of Japan; in 1994, this was reduced to 1.4 times. Such a change in the position of Japan is behind U.S. demands not only for funds to finance the stationing of U.S. forces in Japan, but also for greater rear support in an emergency.

Before the Hashimoto-Clinton summit meeting, the Japanese and U.S. Governments reached an agreement to return U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa Prefecture in the next five to seven years

and announced it as if to produce a dramatic effect. When Hashimoto made the announcement at the news conference, he also stated that the two countries would start joint study on the use of Japanese facilities by U.S. forces in case of crisis. The scene reminded us of the November 1969 summit meeting between then Prime Minister Eisaku Sato — whom Hashimoto respects as his honored teacher — and then President Richard Nixon in Washington.

The Sato-Nixon joint statement stipulated the need to promote Japan-U.S. consultations for the return of Okinawa by the end of 1972 while it emphasized the need to come up with measures against contingencies in the Far East, asserting that security of the ROK and Taiwan is also important for the security of Japan. In a speech to the Japan National Press Club, the late Sato revealed the view that virtually approved the deployment of U.S. forces from its bases in Japan in the event of an armed attack against the ROK.

While trying to reduce dissatisfaction on the Japanese side with the return of Okinawa, the Sato-Nixon joint statement paved the way for widening areas to be covered in the Japan-U.S. security treaty by shifting the emphasis from Article 5, on defense of Japan, to Article 6, on measures against emergencies in the Far East. At least up to now, history has not proven that the statement was a grand mistake.

The Hashimoto-Clinton declaration reconfirmed the Japan-U.S. security alliance and agreed to promote concrete steps toward the 21st century. We hope that this will truly contribute to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan: Editorial on Security Setup Redefinition

OW1904063396 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN
(Morning Edition) in Japanese 18 Apr 96 p 5

[Editorial: "Core of Security Arrangement Lies in Trust — Study of Emergency Measures To Be Conducted Within the Constitutional Framework"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "security" issue was brought to the fore at the Japan-U.S. summit talks for the first time in a long period of time. Frankly speaking, this was the impression I had after listening to the 17 April news conference; but at the same time, I could not but feel some "heavy burden" that is quite different from what it used to be.

In the summit talks more than ten years ago, the "economic" issue played the leading role, while security and political issues played only supporting parts, because the United States was irritated over the enormous trade imbalance. Perhaps I will be going too far in saying

that the revival of talks on the security issue has been noted since reversion of Okinawa in the early 1970s as well as normalization of diplomatic relations with China. Also, major topics brought up for discussion at the recent summit talks concerned China, the Korean peninsula, and Okinawa.

Viewed from a long-term standpoint, China has been a key factor in the ups and downs of Japan-U.S. relations. The United States has sought to maintain the balance of power in the Far East by aligning itself with China on one occasion and with Japan on the next. Since normalization of relations between the United States and China, it has seemed likely that the three countries were about to form an amicable triangular relationship. However, the United States and China seem to be drifting apart once again, and there is no need to dwell on the fact that this drift was motivated by the move toward "redefining" the Japan-U.S. security arrangement.

The "heavy burden" signifies nothing but the importance of making one's choice. At the news conference, U.S. President Bill Clinton said that the summit talks were highlighted by "the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. security alliance." Then a question arises: For what purpose?

Is it to handle unpredictable emergencies on the Korean peninsula, or is it to ensure the supply of energy, which is also very important? And there is another issue that should not be forgotten: that is the question of China's future orientation.

To go deeper into the question, we can say that it concerns the future situation in the Far East as a whole after a possible reunification of the two Koreas. That is the reason the subtitle "the alliance toward the 21st century" is attached to the Japan-U.S. joint declaration on security and the reason the two leaders reiterated the importance of "Japan-U.S. relations in the next century."

Naturally, the joint declaration states that the two countries will seek to promote further cooperation with China so that "China will be able to play a positive and constructive role" in the Asian-Pacific region. However, China may suspect that its role is secondary.

Alliance Toward the 21st Century

There are two core issues in the current "redefinition" of the security arrangement: the bilateral alliance has been upgraded to cover a larger area of Asia and the Pacific, and defense-related cooperation will be strengthened. In concrete terms, the core is the review of "the guideline for defense cooperation."

The Japan-U.S. security treaty was originally concluded on the condition that in return for U.S. defense of Japan, Japan will provide bases in case of emergencies in the Far East. The treaty was an outcome of East-West confrontations, and that is why the late Foreign Minister Etsusaburo Shiina once termed the U.S. Forces Japan [USFJ] a "watchdog [banken]."

However, there is another objective for the United States to station its forces in Japan — to prevent the recurrence of Japanese militarism. And that is the very reason the commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps units stationed in Okinawa described their own role as a "bottlecap" in 1990.

As the cold war came to an end, the USFJ began to lose its role as a "watchdog." At present, Japan is paying costs for USFJ deployment that amount to over 10 million yen per U.S. military member. If this payment is being made for the purpose of performing the "bottlecap" role, the Japanese taxpayers will never be convinced. Herein lies the need for "redefining" the security arrangement.

We will refrain from talking about money or other technical issues for now. The vital point at issue is whether our choice of "strengthening the security arrangement" will eventually be of advantage to Japan.

Let us go back to the starting point. A majority of our people will probably admit that our relationship with the United States is the most important bilateral relation. Are there any destabilizing factors in the Asian-Pacific region? Of course, that depends on what factors can be taken as destabilizing. Nevertheless, there is always a need for insurance against instability in any place.

Then has the presence of the U.S. forces in Japan contributed to peace and security in Japan and in the Far East as well? People may have different opinions on this point, but we believe their presence does contribute to peace and security in Japan. At the news conference, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto stated that if Japan should try to defend its own security by itself, such moves could be a source of unnecessary provocation to neighboring countries. Therefore, it is precisely the Japan-U.S. coordination that is a great reassurance for our neighbors in Asia and the Pacific.

It follows that there is no way to avoid reviewing what the Japan-U.S. security arrangement ought to be in the post-Cold War era, even setting aside the question as to whether you support the "redefinition" measures taken by the two governments.

Request for Revitalizing Prior Consultations

The review of the guidelines is a very delicate issue. The United States strongly requests that defense cooperation in emergencies be promoted, maintaining that such cooperation is a proof of "strengthening the security arrangement."

To this request, Japan has indicated hesitation. It is not just because Japan is concerned not only over the possibility of getting involved in disputes but also with the possibility that such cooperation may, on the contrary, cause a strong wariness of Japan among its neighbors. In fact, this view has already been voiced.

The utmost caution must be used to prevent friction with our neighbors during the proposed review of emergency measures. At the very least, the present constitutional constraints must be respected and preserved. The utmost efforts must be made to share information with the public to the fullest extent.

At the news conference, Prime Minister Hashimoto stated that Japan and the United States share such fundamental values as democracy and respect for human rights and described these values as supported by "a big pillar" of mutual understanding. He also stated his determination to have the pillar grow even larger. We agree with the prime minister on these points. However, it will be necessary to take into consideration what measures should be taken in pursuing Japan's diplomacy on the basis of this pillar.

"Trust" is the key to maintaining the Japan-U.S. security arrangement, and trust must also be secured in our relations with various Asian countries. In this connection, we would like to build a relationship with the United States that is devoid of deception from now on. Practices leading to intensified distrust among the people should be abolished. For example, troop dispatches used to be described as "transfers," and changes in equipment used to be reported as "no changes." In other words, prior consultations should be promoted in a more effective way.

Moreover, the government should approach the public more frequently. The government's views should be frankly disclosed to the people. They should be informed what judgment the government has made on the international situation; how conformity with the Constitution can be maintained; and in what areas the public will be asked to have patience.

This is because the public is capable of listening to the government's views in a composed manner.

Japan: Official Sees Security Policy As 'Playing With Fire'

OW1904111696 Tokyo AERA in Japanese 22 Apr 96 pp 24-26

[Article by AERA editorial board member Toshiaki Miura: "Venturing into the Gray Zone — 'Emergency in the Far East' — That Japan Faces in Extending Cooperation to the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "I wish the politicians were not playing with fire," a high-ranking government official, who has been concerned with security policy for many years, said dubiously. There is much discussion about the right of collective self-defense in Japan before U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Japan beginning 16 April.

The collective defense issue also came to the surface in the spring of 1994, when the government discussed countermeasures concerning North Korea's alleged nuclear development. In the discussion of the rear support issue, the usual government interpretation stood in its way: "Joint action with the U.S. armed forces corresponds to collective defense prohibited by the Japanese Constitution." The crisis at that time was averted after all by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's visit to North Korea. In Japan the examination of the collective defense issue was suspended due to the birth of the coalition government made up of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], Social Democratic Party [SDP], and Sakigake [Harbinger]. However, the same government official complains: "Even if the examination is resumed, it will not progress. Unless the politicians form a resolution to change the interpretation of the Constitution, the bureaucrats will surely hesitate to act."

Focal Point is Rear Support for U.S. Armed Forces

The right of collective defense means making a joint counterattack when an allied country is invaded by another country. This right differs from the right of individual self-defense, which authorizes a counterattack only when one's own country is attacked. The UN Charter authorizes both of these rights as inherent rights of every nation. Japan pursues an exclusively defensive policy under Article 9 of the Constitution and recognizes the right of individual defense. As to the right of collective defense, however, the Japanese Government's interpretation is: "Although international law authorizes exercise of the right, Japan cannot under its Constitution."

Now that the U.S.-Soviet cold war confrontation is over, security concern has shifted to a number of regional conflicts breaking out in various parts of the world.

In short, the task of "redefinition" of the U.S.-Japan Security undertaken by the two governments for the upcoming visit of U.S. President Clinton to Japan is to focus on the question of how Japan can cooperate in extending rear support to the U.S. armed forces in case of "emergency" on the Korean peninsula or in the Taiwan Strait.

Yukio Okamoto, former chief of the First North America Division of the Foreign Ministry, as well as an international consultant, makes the following comment: "The U.S.-Japan Security Treaty has two pillars — the defense of Japan as provided for in Article 5 and the maintenance of peace in the Far East as provided for in Article 6. Article 5 has been the primary concern of Japan. According to the U.S. view, however, it is impossible for any country to attack Japan alone. The realistic scenario is that Japan will be affected by a conflict that breaks out in the Far Eastern area. In Japan, however, the discussion of Article 6 inevitably leads to the problem of the right of collective self-defense, so its discussion has been avoided."

"Redefinition" of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty means getting rid of the unfounded principle and shifting the emphasis from Article 5 to Article 6.

The United States Distrusts Japan

Around mid-March, when the PRC repeated its missile exercises before the presidential election in Taiwan, a breakfast meeting was held in a room at LDP headquarters by former director generals of the Defense Agency, to welcome former Assistant Deputy Defense Secretary [Richard] Armitage.

[Armitage] "We cannot be indifferent to the relationship between the PRC and Taiwan. If the PRC launches an armed attack against Taiwan, what can Japan do?"

[Sohei Miyashita, former director general of the Defense Agency] "If the PRC attack against Taiwan has nothing to do with Japan's security and peace, it would be difficult for Japan to take action. Because the United States takes action does not necessarily mean Japan can extend full support."

"The United States does not ask Japan to accept any new defense obligations that are contrary to the current interpretation of the Constitution," according to U.S. envoy to Japan Deming [title and name as published]. As Deming says, the U.S. side shows diplomatic considerations on the surface.

However, "The U.S. Congress and the think tanks are distrustful of Japan, asking if the country cannot do anything," according to Masashi Nishihara, a professor at the National Defense Academy.

The remarks of Mr. Armitage, who is not in active service, conveyed the atmosphere within the United States.

The LDP began its discussion on security in February in its security panel, chaired by Tsutomu Kawara, in preparation for President Clinton's visit to Japan. The panel held frequent study meetings — twice a week — by inviting former Defense Agency officials. On 15 March, the panel compiled a document entitled "Present-Day Significance of U.S.-Japan Security System," which was translated into Japanese and sent to U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry.

"We would like to send a message that the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty is more important to Japan than to the United States," according to Mr. Kawara. The purpose was to give support to the Hashimoto administration.

At the end of the this document there is a phrase — "examination of the right of collective self-defense." This phrase was not included in the draft of this document, but was inserted at the last stage.

Tokuichiro Tamazawa, former Director General of the Defense Agency, says: "If we take up the problem of collective defense squarely, that will only complicate the matter, leading to an unproductive discussion. Our purpose is to discuss what we can do within the current framework. However, the LDP has discussed the the right of collective defense in the past, so we decided to insert the phrase."

SDP Wary of LDP Moves

Then does such an approach not touch on the discussion of the right of collective defense? The answer is in the negative. Mr. Miyashita, who is also the acting chairman of the security panel, explains: "If we discuss how far Japan can cooperate with the U.S. armed forces in case of emergency, we surely face the problem of choice — either the right of collective defense or the right of individual defense. Our view is to examine how far we can cooperate within the framework of the right of individual defense."

What kind of rear support can Japan extend within the sphere called the "gray zone"? It is likely that the sphere of the right of individual defense will be expanded.

Furthermore, the security panel focused its attention on the "guidelines for defense cooperation." The guidelines compiled by the two governments assumed the following three cases: (1) arrangements to prevent aggressors from attacking Japan; (2) action to cope with armed attacks against Japan; (3) Japan-U.S. cooperation in case of emergency in the Far East. However, Item 3

— "emergency in the Far East" — had not been dealt with.

Therefore, in this field, the security panel examined the provision of civilian airports and port facilities for emergency use. The government did the same in this field. The conference between the Japanese and U.S. Governments is progressing as if following the LDP discussion. This time it is likely that Japan and the U.S. will conclude the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement [ACSA], which allows the two countries to provide fuel and other supplies to each other in peacetime; thus they will promote defense cooperation.

SDP Policy Board Chairman Shigeru Ito expressed his growing wariness: "This is an important change, and we feel concern about it."

Mr. Ito said to the security panel chairman: "At present a winter wind and a spring wind are blowing in Eastern Asia. A warm spring wind, a regional forum like ASEAN [Association of South-East Asian Nations], will become the main current. We should not overreact to what is happening before our eyes."

The SDP is trying to show its original color by presenting an Asian vision that attaches importance to a multilateral framework, not exclusively to the U.S.-Japan relationship.

However, Mr. Ito also says, "We cannot deny the existence of serious situations. We cannot turn a blind eye to them."

As a ruling party, the SDP not only has to cope with the actual problems but also has to maintain the coalition framework.

Shinshinto [New Frontier Party] Changes Its Interpretation of the Constitution

The Shinshinto side attacked the ruling coalition side, which continued groping.

Shinshinto head Ichiro Ozawa changed his view to regard the right of collective defense as "constitutional" on 7 April on the basis of a private plan compiled by Chairman Shozo Azuma of the Shinshinto security organic law project team. Relying on the UN Charter, which authorizes the right of collective self-defense, he has changed his interpretation of the Constitution.

"The government and the LDP are trying to overcome the problem of the Constitution in an attitude of ambiguity. There is a certain danger of a peacetime ACSA being abused in time of war," according to Mr. Azuma.

Policy Board Chairman Kazuo Aichi says, "When we make a case study of emergency situations under the

U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, we cannot avoid touching on the right of collective defense. When occasion demands, we have to be prepared for the deterioration of relations with the PRC. That is what the alliance is all about."

Similarly, on 8 April, the Japan Association of Corporate Executives published a report suggesting that the government reconsider its interpretation of the Constitution. Within the LDP itself, there is a force supporting reconsideration of the Constitution, with hawks at the center.

Is it possible that the discussion of strengthening the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty will remain within the current framework, as the LDP security panel intends? The situation is still fluid, being entwined with the direction of political realignment.

Japan: Expert Comments on Security Alliance With U.S.

OW1804144796 Tokyo GAIKO FORUM in Japanese
Apr 96 pp 7-16

[Article] by Shinichi Kitaoka, professor at Rikkyo University: "Isolation for Japan Or Widening and Deepening the Japan-U.S. Security System"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To the east, it has the United States; to the north, it has Russia; and to the west, it has China. That is where Japan is, dictated so by its destiny. And these three countries are not ordinary countries. Each are countries with huge masses of land and population, and with the proud thinking that they are the centers of the world (or the region).

The United States is a champion of freedom and democracy. Russia is a country that claims itself to be the leader of the Slavs and claimed, in the Soviet days, to be the fatherland of world socialism. And China has long considered itself the middle kingdom of the world, and has, since the founding of the PRC in 1949, often called itself the representative of the Third World.

All three nations have a history of having changed their diplomatic positions by challenging their traditional diplomatic positions — supported by their perception of themselves as the center of the world.

Contemporary international relations stand on the basis of recognizing sovereignty for all nations and on the theory that the sovereigns are equal in principle. But the United States, China and the Soviet Union have not always been faithful to that theory. It may be appropriate to call these countries "empires," not only because they are big in size, but also from the context that they each represent cultures of their own.

Japan is a middle class nation. History clearly shows Japan has been within the Chinese culture orbit. There has been an ideological attempt to rebel against this Japanese position and to make it the center of the world or East Asia, but it was only for a short period of time from the 1930s to 1940s that such thinking was really predominant. And inasmuch as that Japanese thinking of an empire was artificial, it disappeared very promptly with the collapse of that empire in war.

That Japan has been able to live in such exceptionally good stability since the end of World War II while surrounded by these three empires is, most of all, because it has been an ally of the United States, the mightiest of the three. There are many countries which have benefited from alliance with the United States, but the benefits for Japan from its alliance can be said to have been particularly great in view of its geopolitical condition.

But I feel a cloud has appeared over the Japan-U.S. alliance relationship recently. To be sure, an alliance cannot last forever. At least, it does not last forever if uncared for. I personally think the Japan-U.S. security alliance should be maintained — or should be strengthened —, but before coming to that conclusion, I think it appropriate to think over frankly and review what kind of situation could arise if the Japan-U.S. security system did not exist.

Condition of Security Today

Before discussing that fully, however, I would like first to touch briefly on the existing realities of the nations' security today.

The most important point to note is the fact that it has become so easy to own weapons of mass destruction. We now live in a time when even poor countries such as Iraq and North Korea (the DPRK) can have a great arsenal of weapons, and when a single private religious group, such as the Aum cult, can have dreadful weapons at its disposal. To put it simply, we now live in a time when it is so difficult to defend our own country.

The second point to note is the fact that the so-called industrialized nations, which are abundant physically and liberal mentally, are becoming increasingly averse to military service. We used to have in Japan the popular expression "3K" [kitanai (dirty), kitsui (hard), and kakkowarui (does not look good)] to describe the job young Japanese people stay away from. It would be impossible to expect 3K-hating young people to join the army.

Let us take the United States, which has been the world's policeman since the end of the war. Even in that country, when U.S. troop casualties from peacekeeping

operations [PKO] missions in Somalia in 1993 ran to 18, complaints erupted among the public saying U.S. PKO missions should be limited to those related to logistic support or to those in areas of transportation, communications and medical care — an argument very much reminiscent of one that developed in Japan over its PKO missions.

With condition as they exist now, if a formidable power appeared and challenged the international order, it would be very difficult to restrain and put that country under control. Before World War II, when Japan, Italy and Germany continued to expand their power, there were no countries that dared to face them head-on to stop their expansion. The big powers of today are even more cowardly. They won't move unless there is very deft, fair and extensive cooperation coming from other countries.

Even the new international cooperation system to take on the problem of Bosnia that started last year was made possible only because the United States, the world's biggest military power, had the help of regional powers — namely, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Russia —, nations in the neighborhood of Bosnia as well as many other nations in the framework of the United Nations. With all that, it is still a weak system, and there is no alternative to it. So complex a formation of power is required to resolve conflicts today.

Possibility of the Japan-U.S. Security Pact Ending

Now, I will go into the main part of my discussion, and begin it by studying existing views and arguments relating to the Japan-U.S. security alliance.

As far as Japan is concerned, it might look as if there were no difference in view on the issue any more since the Social Democratic Party [SDP] changed its policy of rejecting the alliance some years ago. That decision should have meant that all the major political parties of Japan agreed on keeping the alliance. But an agreement to maintain the alliance does not mean the parties have agreed on policy issues too — by policy issues I mean financing to realize the policy targets, specific action plans to take, and so forth. No doubt, the SDP has not come so far as to agree on the specific issues. Indeed, actions taken when the SDP headed the Prime Minister's Office in dealing with Okinawa base issues were different from those taken earlier by the governments of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP].

Besides, an apparent fact is that parties tend to be firm and tough about their policies only when there are opposing parties which are resisting and fighting them. In the days when the SDP insisted on abolishing the security pact, the LDP government leaders did

everything to hold on to the security pact. But now that all parties say they agree on keeping the treaty, the people's support for the need to keep fighting for it by all means appears to be diminishing.

Meanwhile, what are Americans' views on the security alliance with Japan? In February last year, a group led by Professor Joseph Nye, then assistant secretary of defense, issued a report, which concluded that the U.S. armed forces in Far East should be maintained at least for another 10 years at the present level (of about 100,000). Professor Nye in the report said the firm military presence is necessary if the United States is to continue participating in the growing economies of Asia.

Then, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, in its July-August issue, carried an article entitled "East Asian Security: The Case for Deep Engagement" by Professor Nye, and an article arguing against it entitled "The Pentagon's Ossified Strategy" by Chalmer Johnson, a professor emeritus of the University of California, and Professor E. Khean. In their article, Professor Johnson and his colleague asserted that Japan has reaped great benefits from the alliance and that the reason Japan does not want to become an independent responsible country is because of the United States' protectorate policy toward Japan. They said ending the security pact will enable a healthy democracy to develop in Japan.

The conclusion drawn by Professor Nye is correct in the short term. It costs less for the United States to maintain troops in Japan with the latter's generous host nation support than to station them in Guam, Hawaii, or San Diego. Besides, Japan, with its economic and technological power, can be an ideal logistic support base for the United States. Its military presence in Japan will also enable the United States to maintain its power of voice over Asia. Accordingly, it is much more advantageous for it to maintain the Japan-U.S. security pact and continue to use bases in Japan, the report asserted.

But there are some shortcomings in the Nye report. First of all, it should be noted that humans tend to think in terms of relative gains rather than absolute gains. Suppose a man won 10,000 yen from a deal, but then learns his neighbor earned 30,000 yen from a similar deal, he would feel he lost rather than gained. If the Japan-U.S. security alliance was considered to be definitely beneficial to Japan, while being only possibly beneficial to the United States, it would be impossible to persuade those American people who oppose it or are distrustful of it, to change their mind and accept it.

Second, the U.S. military presence in Japan may have the effect of stabilizing Asia, but it does not mean that

the United States could not participate in the Asian market if it had no military presence in Asia. The United States could probably wield considerable power of voice over Asia even without its troops there, given the complicated circumstances of Asia I will refer to later in this article. Conversely, it can be also said that the stationing of U.S. troops in Asia — in particular its stationing of troops in Japan — does not necessarily bring an economic advantage to itself.

Third, the Nye report appears to have strong support among security experts, but the American public do not always accept the views of specialists. When military officials themselves argue and insist the military are important, the public tends to discount their argument as motivated by sectional interests. After all, the argument that it is cheap to maintain U.S. troops in Japan is not so convincing as it is to counter the view that the United States does not need military deployment that guarantees security in a region so far away.

Professor Johnson in his above-cited report wrote that U.S. troops in Japan cannot afford a bowl of noodles if they leave their bases, and that is an argument persuasive to the U.S. public. A long time has passed since 1951 when the security pact was first concluded, and since 1960 when the pact was revised. Now Japan is a rich country. One cannot come up with a good answer when asked why the United States is still protecting Japan.

Possibility for a Multinational Framework

If the security pact is to come to an end, it can do so in a number of ways. The most undesirable way for it to happen is through a clash between Japan and the United States that results in the scrapping of the pact. But that kind of situation is not likely to happen. The most likely way, if it does happen, is that the security pact will be replaced by a multinational cooperation framework.

There is a precedent for that. As a result of the Washington talks (1921-1922), the Anglo-Japanese alliance treaty ended its 20-year life, replaced by a quadripartite treaty among Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and France. This quadripartite pact was an agreement to hold frank talks when a problem arose, but it was really nothing more than a convenient way of terminating the Anglo-Japanese alliance. The intention of it being such, the pact, as anticipated, turned out not to be so effective.

If a multinational organization is to be formed in the Far East now, it would probably include Japan, the United States, China, Russia, the ROK, and, maybe, North Korea. That kind of organization may be useful in confidence-building among the participating countries,

but will probably not be effective in containing or resolving major conflicts. In the world today, there can be no country willing to risk its own security to defend another country unless they are in an extraordinarily good and trusting relationship. And it is impossible to think such a trusting relationship will be formed among countries of different political systems any time soon.

To add an additional note here, prior to the Washington talks and while World War I was continuing, there were some who announced the Anglo-Japanese alliance pact was no longer necessary. The pact was initially formed to check Russia, but, subsequently, as Japan developed close commercial relations with Russia, the Japan-Russia relationship turned into the axis for Japanese diplomacy. Meanwhile, the relationship between Japan and the United Kingdom soured, with the two countries quarreling often over interests in central and south China.

Speaking against the argument for ending the Anglo-Japanese alliance, Sakuzo Yoshino [a professor at Tokyo University in the early 20th century] at that time declared an alliance is formed in order to deal with a common enemy, but that the alliance can be maintained even when there is no longer is a common enemy. This was very meaningful advice, providing a sharp reminder that an alliance is good not only for the cause of common defense, but is also good for keeping the two parties linked. In fact, when the Anglo-Japanese alliance was terminated, its function in stabilizing China ceased to exist, and confusion erupted in both Japan and the United Kingdom on policy toward China.

A couple of years after the Anglo-Japanese alliance ended, some people in both countries spoke with nostalgia about the days when they were in alliance. But it was not possible to reinstate the alliance as there was no common enemy to deal with. Likewise, once the Japan-U.S. alliance is terminated, it will not be easy to reinstate it, however well we may come to see the merits of doing so.

Political Future of China

The most important question in the Far East in the medium and long term will be one that concerns China. I will discuss here the future of China and the impact which the continuation or termination of the Japan-U.S. alliance will have on that country.

China's economic growth over the past 10 years has been dramatic, but appears to be reaching a turning point now. Among the obstacles facing the country are the problems of regional economic gaps, inflation and corruption, which are so bad as to be out of control.

The second problem is its foreign policy, which still tends to be self-centered in thinking and to depend on power diplomacy. Its nuclear tests display its power diplomacy, the country's justification that they are for self-defensive use is a revelation of its self-centered thinking. It is impossible to think China's neighboring countries accept the country's nuclear tests as being for "self-defense" or for "peaceful use," China's thinking lacks any sense of reciprocity. China wants to stick to self-help and not accepting other countries' meddling in its internal affairs, and that position is understandable in view of its history of being invaded and harassed by other countries. But that position also means the country does not see the importance of gaining peace and achieving economic growth by cooperating with other countries. It is certainly not desirable that such a big country as China should still think this way.

The third problem lies in political interference in the economy. Chinese traditionally are people of superb economic talent. The reason such a trait has not been put to good use in the economic development of that country is because of political meddling in the economy. In absorbing and adopting western culture, for instance, China had done better than Japan until the mid-19th century. But once some segments of the economy started to grow and expand, politics interfered and nipped in the bud their further growth. Chang Zuolin, the warlord who controlled much of Manchuria in the 1920's, often issued currency recklessly at the time of the barley and wheat harvest seasons. Of course, he did that to build up his influence on Central China, but that inevitably caused inflation, and drove farmers into a predicament.

What finally provided the basic political stability needed for its economy was the Chinese Communist Party. It was a historically important accomplishment in China. Furthermore, in the 1980's, its open-door policy started to come on the track, and the Chinese people's economic abilities started to show once again. But my concern is that once the people of that nation start to enjoy a better standard of living as a result of their economic successes, they will not remain content and happy living with the lack of freedom in the political system.

This political reality, and the difficult economic problems mentioned earlier, coming to shake up the country, I think it likely the Chinese regime will become destabilized and this will drive it toward nationalism. When a government is unstable and no one in it is able to exercise strong leadership, it becomes impossible for the government to make concessions to other countries. Be it under Gorbachev or under Yeltsin, when the government of Russia was strong, it was possible for the country to adopt flexible policies toward Japan on territorial issues. But when the government was not strong

enough, regardless of who led it, it was called a traitor if it made concessions to Japan. In China, when it had a weak leader, it was unable to take a flexible position toward Taiwan.

We may recall what happened in China in the 1920's. In the 1920's it was ruled by a number of warlords who kept on fighting with each other with the support of foreign powers. But once the Kuomintang announced its anti-imperialism stand, and that policy started to gain support, everybody started to talk about anti-imperialism and all Chinese foreign policy became rigid and inflexible.

Nuclear tests and the series of tough positions taken against Taiwan by China last year, its arms modernization programs that have been carried out over the past few years, and its diplomatic maneuvers relating to the Spratly Islands — all of these could indicate a rigidity caused by the central government's weakness and inability to control the hardliners, rather than revealing a rigidity which was a matter of free choice by the government.

Of course, we must not be concerned only about unstable elements. Among the younger generation there are now emerging those who believe China should seriously think about its future as a member of the international community and who think about the importance of mutual reliance and international cooperation. And almost all leaders of China look discreet and moderate individually. But once an internal power struggle flares up, probably none will be able to take flexible positions on such policy matters as Taiwan, which is tied to the reputation of China as an empire.

Let us suppose a tense situation occurred after the Japan-U.S. security pact had been terminated or weakened. And let us further suppose the Chinese Government thought the United States or Japan would not do anything if it took a tough action on Taiwan. This would be bound to embolden the hardliners in the Chinese Government. If Japan, in such a situation, continued to provide huge yen-based loans to China, it would further embolden the hardliners. And if Japan discontinued or drastically reduced its loans, Japan-China relations would become further strained. I must say that the Japanese Government should act promptly now on the existing troublesome issue of deciding the amount of the next yen-based loans to China.

Difficulties in Japan-ROK Relations

If the Japan-U.S. alliance ends, the Japan-ROK relationship will become more difficult and complicated. The ROK is a country long known for its internal power struggles. Recently, the government of the coun-

try has been investigating two former presidents, Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, by instituting a new law to do it. The action appears to stem from the practice of the Yi dynasty, when incumbent governments often tried to find justification for their existence by asking for judgment on the wrongdoings of preceding governments. The ROK is a middle-class country like Japan, but has the tradition of thinking of itself as a mini-middle kingdom. In that nation, when there is a power struggle, it is marked by intensity and ferocity which sweep everything into a condition that Gregory Henderson called "whirlpool structure." When battle has begun, people forget to think about giving special consideration to diplomatic issues.

This is a nation which is very prone to react harshly — so harshly as to burn effigies of foreign national leaders. One will never be able to find a country like it anywhere else in the world. With this sort of tradition, if it catches a nationalistic fever, it will become impossible for its leaders to make concessions to other countries. Recently, some people in ROK have started to say that not only Takeshima Island, but Tsushima Island are Korean territory. The Kim Yong-sam government announced it would pursue a flexible and future-oriented diplomatic policy, but it will be difficult for that government to live by that stand.

In the not too distant future, South and North Korea will be reunified, and when that happens, that country will ask for economic assistance from Japan. Japan should provide that assistance, and will probably do it, but that will not necessarily mean Korean ill-feeling about Japan will turn for the better as a result. In general, diplomatic actions taken in the expectation of being rewarded with gratitude do not go well. To Korea, what is important is the present and the future, and its strong anti-Japanese emotions will last as long as they serve the political purposes of South and North Korea. That being the case, bashing Japan can be the best way of diverting the people's attention away from the aftershocks that will follow national reunification.

If we had no Japanese-U.S. alliance in that kind of situation, the Japan-ROK relationship would inevitably become further strained and destabilized. That being inevitable, Japan must make endeavors to retain the Japanese-U.S. alliance, while making active efforts to improve relations with the ROK.

Improving relations with the ROK will not be easy. To speak in abstract terms, it will mean creating a situation in which the ROK will realize that an amicable relationship with Japan is beneficial to it too. If Korean brand-name products are imported into Japan in visibly large quantities, and if that leads Koreans to think their

country's prosperity depends on Japanese markets, they will come to recognize that anti-Japanese emotions in their country will not help the export of their products to Japan. And only when that recognition takes place, will their anti-Japanese feelings start to recede.

Now, I will write a few words about Russia. There are plenty of possibilities of Russia making a comeback as a big power. But if it does, it will probably do it as a military power rather than a peaceful and democratic country. When nations build new states or rebuild existing ones, they do it by rousing nationalistic sentiments, and nationalism is something that depends on reinterpreting things that happened in the past. In the case of Russia, the only glory that can be recalled and recited are things related to the military.

Given the growth and development of China as a matter of reality, however, Russia will assume a defensive position in Asia. China's population pressure in the Manchuria area is overwhelming Russia. Russia might seek the cooperation of Japan to deal with the problem. But in the absence of any common ideological basis to link Japan with Russia, that will probably will not lead to any strong tie-up.

Linking Up With Southeast Asia

Meanwhile, on the brighter side is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). When the ASEAN was first formed in 1967, and even when its secretariat office opened in 1974, it was a small symbolic presence. But over the past 10 years or so, the ASEAN nations have achieved remarkable economic growth and the ASEAN has turned into an influential bloc in the arena of international politics. Last year, it was joined by Vietnam, the second largest country in Southeast Asia with a population of 70 million. And it is due to be joined by the three other countries of Indochina in the future. The ASEAN nations share the common goal of wanting to develop their countries by promoting the economy, particularly trade, and have continued to further and promote cooperative relations among themselves. This reminds us of the path Japan took in its development after the war.

Late last year, there were a couple of interesting developments in Southeast Asia. First, the ASEAN nations signed a treaty on creating the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ). The position of these nations as middle-class countries sandwiched by China, India, and the United States is represented in this.

Second, Australia and Indonesia have concluded a security maintenance treaty, in which the two countries have promised to hold frank discussions on questions

of security. It does not have any binding force beyond that, but, after all, almost all treaties these days are written that way. What is important is that these two nations, which had been embroiled in conflict, have concluded a treaty praising the security of each other. The two countries had conducted joint military exercises even before concluding that treaty, but signing the treaty means their cooperative relationship has been upgraded further. Prime Minister Keating and Foreign Minister Evans succeeded in getting the treaty concluded following 18-month-long behind-the-scenes negotiations. Unfortunately, the Keating government lost in a general election held in March, and its policy of leaving Europe and joining Asia is said to have been set back. But in the long term, I think that policy will take root.

Japan should be able to and should deepen its ties with this expanding ASEAN. The countries of this group are not empires with self-centered views of the world, they are countries that seek economic-led development for themselves while also recognizing the importance of international cooperation. And they also regard the U.S. military presence as necessary. I think Japan can join their nuclear weapons-free zone concept while maintaining its security alliance with the United States.

Widening and Deepening of Japan-U.S. Security System

If the Japan-U.S. security pact is terminated, it will lead to Japan substantially building up its own arsenal of arms. On the Korean peninsula, which is on the periphery of Japan, there are one million troops in the north and half a million troops in the south. Even when we suppose the two states on that peninsula are unified and a large-scale reduction of arms is carried out, the country will still be left with armed forces considerably larger than those of Japan in size.

When that situation arises, as Japan will want a certain degree of security balance assured, it will see the need to have a larger number of troops than it has now. Besides, many of the arms and weapons Japan has now are those intended for use in conjunction with those of the United States, and, as such, are not fit for independent use. While Japan can get rid of a large number of fighter planes and P-3C patrol planes it procured and deployed to counter the Soviet threats, it will have to procure much new arms and equipment.

As Japan is decisively dependent on the United States for transportation and information gathering capabilities at present, it will have to hurry to secure those capabilities, for instance, by procuring communications satellites for itself. Japan will probably increase its domestic

production of arms and will even begin to think about exporting them.

I personally believe Japan should not make unnecessary threats to neighboring countries, and should not have nuclear arms, strategic bombers, nor aircraft carriers to make such threats. Nonetheless, if the Japan-U.S. security pact is terminated and, consequently, Japan comes to possess arms to defend itself, then that will inevitably result in an expansion of its arsenal. The ending of the pact will compel Japan also to engage in active diplomacy with China, the ROK, North Korea, Russia, Taiwan and Southeast Asia. And talk of amending the constitution will become a reality.

Can Japan do all this at the same time? Will it be possible for Japan to wage effective diplomatic offensives on neighboring countries, while proceeding to expand the arms and amend the constitution? I think it will be very difficult.

My conclusion is one based on common sense. I think if we want to prevent the above condition from happening, we should not only maintain, but also expand the Japan-U.S. security system. To be more specific, I think, we need to widen and deepen the security alliance.

The Japan-U.S. security pact is necessary not solely for the security of Japan, and Article 6 of the pact provides that the United States can use Japanese bases for the purpose of maintaining security and peace in the Far East. Furthermore, since 1951 when the first pact was signed and 1960 when the revised treaty was concluded, there have been remarkable developments in military technology, and now the U.S. armed forces in Japan are capable of covering a wide area extending from the Pacific to the Persian Gulf. And, Japan itself has since developed into a tremendous economic power.

In other words, there is now a condition wherein the U.S. forces, backed by Japan, can sustain the stability of the whole Asian region. Things are now different from the days of the Cold War, and there is little likelihood of the United States starting a war recklessly. With that as the reality, should Japan not widen the scope of the alliance and actively support activities by the U.S. forces that contribute to peace and security in Asia? Of course, a decision on whether to support the activities of the U.S. forces should be the judgment of Japan itself, and support should be of the kind and to the extent that Japan considers appropriate. I think there is much Japan can do for stability in Asia without getting directly involved in combat operations overseas.

As far as the deepening of the alliance is concerned, we can start it by filling in and remedying shortcomings in the treaty. In the past, the security pact has existed

solely for the purpose of countering threats from the former Soviet Union. And as the pact was meant to deal with contingencies from the northern direction as such, it has many shortcomings. People often point out that Japan and the United States have not yet concluded an acquisition and cross servicing agreement (ACSA), which is considered essential to make their alliance effective. What the two countries also need is a working-level agreement relating to a system of bilateral cooperation.

But the fact of matter is that things are not moving in the direction of a widening or deepening of the alliance. The government, at the time of formulating the new defense buildup outline, declared it would not revise its view of the Far East area. That position was probably taken out of deference to the SDP, but it was indeed a temporizing action. Even on the issue of concluding an ACSA, the government is thinking about applying it only to the flow of commodities in peacetime, and not in emergency contingencies (according to a report in the ASAHI SHIMBUN on 28 January).

Then, there arises the question of why Japan is moving in that direction. At the root of that question is the issue of the collective defense right. The collective defense right means the right to regard an attack on an ally as an attack on itself and thus to take action based on this view. The UN Charter stipulates all nations have individual and collective defense rights, and both the Peace Treaty of San Francisco and the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty recognize that right.

The position of the Japanese Government, however, is that Japan may have a collective defense right, but cannot exercise that right. An unexercizable right is nothing more than a non-existing right, whereas this collective defense right should have been an integral part of the alliance and the collective security system. It is difficult for a country to establish a close security relationship with another country under the premise that they will not help each other even in the case of an emergency.

In the past, every time a question was raised about whether Japan could take a certain security-related action, it led to a debate on whether that action would constitute the exercise of the collective defense right or not, and then always the same conclusion was reached: The action was impossible as it constituted the exercise of the collective defense right.

For instance, in April 1994, the U.S. armed forces made an inquiry about whether Japan could send Self-Defense Force minesweepers to the waters off the Korean peninsula if there was a heightening of tension on the peninsula, and Japan's response was that it could

not do that because it would constitute the exercise of the collective defense right (according to a report in ASAHI SHIMBUN on 25 November 1995).

Each time there is the overstretched interpretation of the collective defense right and the blanket rejection of all action. And by doing so, Japan has built up walls against the U.S. forces. If a nation really wants to defend itself based only on its individual self defense right, and without help from other countries based on the collective defense right, it will have no choice but to own and maintain a huge arsenal of arms. Good solidarity seen among the ASEAN countries is a good example of why the nations of today should stick together by exercising the collective defense right.

Even when we grant and admit that the collective self defense right can involve Japan in risks, the country should not overstretch its interpretation to say that everything relating to the right is unacceptable to Japan. Japan must review each situation case by case.

In the LDP, there are some who think Japan should accept and recognize the collective defense right for itself, but that view is reflected neither in the LDP's platforms nor in the policy of the government. In the New Frontier Party (NFP), the members of the Yushi Group (led by Kazuo Aichi, former director general of the Defense Agency) take a clear position on that matter, but party president Ichiro Ozawa has a different view, revealing that the issue has not been dealt with at the level of the party's top leaders.

In addition to taking action to widen and deepen the security alliance as above, Japan must maintain active friendly diplomacy with the ASEAN countries and Australia. If Japan does not recognize the collective defense right, it will be difficult for it to enter into a genuine relationship of mutual assistance with another country, but I think Japan can go by the following round-about way.

At the time of revising the Japan-U.S. security pact in 1960, the two countries in promised in Article 3 to help strengthen the defense capabilities of each other country, but they also included in it the expression "on the premise that the parties hereto will follow the provisions of their respective constitutions." That condition was included because Japan could not promise to do the same thing as the United States.

Even today, under the provisions of the existing Constitution of Japan, Japan has no choice but to provide less than it can get in security-related assistance. But the reality is that Japan cannot expect to receive more than it gives. In view of this given condition, I think what Japan needs to do is to change that part of the

expression in Article 3 so that the promise of help to each other is "based on the provisions of the constitutions of respective countries and also on the principle of reciprocity."

Some might be critical of this idea, saying it could incite China. Certainly, it is important to continue security dialogue with China, and it will be meaningful to create an international organization that includes China in it. The ASEAN Region Forum (ARF) will be useful in building up trust among countries.

Now not only Japan, but the ROK, Thailand and China have come issued their defense white papers. This represents a great advance in terms of improved transparency. Despite all this, it would still be only natural if non-nuclear, middle-class nations got together and solidified ties among themselves.

In Conclusion

I am not pessimistic or worried about Japan getting isolated. I simply want to reaffirm how important the Japan-U.S. security alliance is for Japan, because it is surrounded by the three mighty empires.

Since the tragic incident in Okinawa, the way forward for the Japan-U.S. alliance has become somewhat unclear. Certainly, the sacrifices of Okinawans are too great. Their burdens must be allayed. Perhaps some consolidation and reduction of U.S. armed forces in Japan as a whole may be inevitable. But such actions must not lead to the weakening or reduction of the Japan-U.S. security alliance itself. What Japan needs now is a forward-looking policy that takes the maintenance of the security system as its grand premise. To do that, I believe Japan should recognize and accept the collective defense right, and should seek to widen and deepen the security alliance based on that right.

The widening and deepening of the security alliance, spoken differently, means giving reciprocity to the security treaty. In 1955, then Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu, in a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, proposed the United States remove its military bases from Japan in stages by withdrawing its army from the mainland of Japan over a period of six years and then the rest of the U.S. armed forces over the following six-year period (all forces in a total of 12 years). Shigemitsu is said to have also proposed⁴ concluding a treaty based on the rule of reciprocity, though its application would be limited to the region of the west Pacific.

To this proposal, Dulles is supposed to have asked Shigemitsu if Japan would come to the aid of U.S. forces in Guam should they come under an attack. Shigemitsu

insisted strongly that it would not be possible because Japan has no capability for doing that. Coming, as it did, in 1955, his proposal was certainly Quixotic. Even if such proposal was made today, it would still encounter problems.

On the other hand, if there was a country today that insisted it did not want to think about admitting the need for reciprocity reflected in a security treaty, then we should call it excessively hidebound.

Japan: No Progress Seen in Telecom Deregulation Talks

OW1804145896 Tokyo KYODO in English
1355 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, April 18 KYODO — Japan, the United States, Canada and the European Union (EU) remained apart Thursday [18 April] during their high-level talks on foreign access to domestic telecommunications companies, conference sources said.

Participants generally welcomed Japan's proposal to remove restrictions on foreign ownership of Japanese telecommunications companies but the proposal met opposition from some EU member nations, the sources said.

The occasion was a meeting in Kobe of senior telecom ministry officials from the four parties ahead of the deadline at the end of April for telecom negotiations under the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Japan currently limits foreign ownership of telecom companies, which have their own circuits, to less than one-third of their capitalization.

Japan plans to raise the limit, except for that on Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) and KDD, Japan's largest domestic and international telecom companies.

But some EU members voiced their intention to maintain similar restrictions, citing the need to keep sovereignty in the telecommunications sector, the sources said.

Telecom talks under the WTO, involving 51 countries, have been held in Geneva on a regular basis. The issue, which remained unsettled under the Uruguay round, is expected to be discussed at a quadrilateral trade ministerial meeting opening in Kobe on Friday.

Japan: Quadrilateral Telecommunications Talks End 19 Apr

OW1904064896 Tokyo KYODO in English
0514 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kobe, April 19 KYODO — High-level officials from quadrilateral trading partners ended a two-day telecommunication conference Friday [19 April] with an appeal to nations around the world to open their telecom markets.

The session held on the eve of the quadrilateral trade conference was represented by Canada, Japan, the United States and the European Union.

Japanese officials said the appeal will be incorporated in a statement to be issued at the end of the three-day quadrilateral trade conference which will open in the quake-ravaged port city of Kobe in western Japan on Friday.

The officials said Friday's discussions centered on the need to open telecom markets in as many countries around the world as possible to ensure free competition.

The officials said the attendants failed to reach agreement on the abolition of restrictions on the entry of foreign companies into the telecom market, and discussions on the issue will be continued at the main trade conference.

Japan: Insurance Leader Urges No Compromise With U.S.

OW1804141196 Tokyo KYODO in English
1240 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO — The head of the Marine and Fire Insurance Association of Japan warned Thursday [18 April] that the Japanese Government should not compromise in its insurance negotiations with the United States.

Compromise proposals made by Japan to break the impasse in the negotiations run counter to the revised insurance law, Koichi Ariyoshi said at a press conference.

One proposal calls for U.S. acceptance of Japanese life and nonlife insurance companies' entry through subsidiaries into the "third sector" for disease and injury insurance, in return for approval for foreign insurers to engage in mail-order sales of automobile insurance.

Ariyoshi said mail-order sales would make it easier for insurers to reject applications and would lead to higher premiums elsewhere for drivers denied such insurance. He said such sales would contradict the Japanese insurance system of giving priority to the relief of victims.

Japan To Seek Continued G-7 Action for Supporting Yen

*OW1904025096 Tokyo KYODO in English
0222 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — Finance Minister Wataru Kubo said Friday [18 April] that Japan will seek continued cooperation among the Group of Seven (G-7) nations for correction of the yen's appreciation against the dollar.

At a news conference ahead of a meeting in Washington on Sunday of the G-7 finance ministers and central bankers, Kubo welcomed recent developments on the currency market, saying the correction of the yen's rise has been progressing "in a favorable direction" under close cooperation since last April.

"Japan will ask other G-7 partners to continue such cooperation," Kubo said.

In early April last year, the dollar slipped below 80 yen, hitting its postwar global low against the Japanese currency.

The G-7 major economies issued a statement at their meeting in late April 1995, calling for an "orderly reversal" of the dollar's decline.

In the early morning session in Tokyo on Friday, the dollar changed hands at levels slightly above 107 yen, about 35 percent higher than its April 1995 lows.

Kubo said the Japanese economy is staging a moderate recovery.

However, he said there remains tasks to be tackled, citing Japan's record high unemployment rate as one point of concern.

Japan will consider what fiscal and monetary policy measures it should take for the economy's full-fledged recovery, Kubo said.

Referring to a cut in key lending rates in Germany, Kubo said the Bundesbank decided on the interest rate cut from the point of view of taking appropriate and timely action.

The German central bank announced Thursday it will reduce the official discount rate by half a percentage point to a postwar low of 2.5 percent, effective Friday.

Market analysts said Germany eased its monetary grip as it is certain that if it had not done so it would face strong pressure at the upcoming G-7 meeting to take action to boost its sluggish economy.

They said Japan may be asked at the G-7 meeting to maintain its current easy monetary stance in line with the German step.

Kubo, however, said Japan will decide on its monetary policy measures at its own discretion.

At a cabinet meeting Friday morning, the government approved Kubo's visit to the United States from Saturday. He will participate in Sunday's G-7 meeting and immediately return home to attend next Tuesday's session of the House of Councillors budget committee.

Japan: NHK, BBC Conclude Cooperation Agreement 19 Apr

*OW1904111096 Tokyo KYODO in English
1006 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — The noncommercial broadcaster Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) and the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) signed a cooperation agreement in London, NHK officials said Friday [19 April].

The deal, which includes regular consultations between the top management of the NHK and the BBC once a year, had been in the pipeline since BBC Director General John Birt visited Japan last July for talks with NHK President Mikio Kawaguchi.

"What the BBC and the NHK can take pride in is the fact that they have maintained the trust of their viewers and listeners," Kawaguchi said after the signing ceremony in London on Thursday.

"In the 21st century, public service broadcasters like the BBC and the NHK face real challenges," Birt said. "However, we are both committed to ensuring that public service broadcasters like ourselves can play just as important a role in the digital age as we have done in the analogue age."

The two broadcasters had negotiated the details in ensuing working-level talks, the officials said.

The accord, covering an eight-year period, also stipulates that both sides cooperate in reporting as equal partners and exchange information on the development of new media.

The NHK now has cooperation agreements with 48 foreign broadcasters in 36 countries.

Japan: EU Warns Tokyo Port Issue May Go Before WTO

*OW1804160296 Tokyo KYODO in English
1446 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO — The European Union (EU) warned Japan during negotiations held in Tokyo on Thursday [18 April] that it could file a suit with the World Trade Organization

(WTO) on Japan's business practices at harbors and ports, Japanese Government officials said.

At the fifth round of bilateral talks held at the Ministry of Transport, Robert Coleman, in charge of transport affairs at the European Commission, said the EU is considering the possibility of filing a suit with the world trade body.

The EU is seeking an improvement in Japanese procedures taken at ports and harbors. Among practices it asserts as too time-consuming is the practice by Japanese port authorities of holding talks in advance with shipping companies and port labor unions whenever changes need to be made in shipping companies or docks for container transport.

Naoki Hirano, councilor of the Ministry of Transport, said the government is not involved in the business practices and that a suit with the WTO would not be appropriate.

Japan: NEC Corp. To Begin Software Production in India

OW1904064996 Tokyo KYODO in English
0512 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — NEC Corp. has signed on a contract with two software houses in India for consignment production of computer software, a company spokesman said Friday [19 April].

The total amount of the NEC order for fiscal 1996 will be worth about 200 million yen, he said.

The move is to take advantage of relatively low costs in the country, roughly one-third of those in Japan, to sharpen its competitive edge in the international market, the spokesman added.

It is the first such move by NEC in India.

The company will increase the number of software houses for such a contract from now on, and possibly invest in the capital of some of the software houses in the future, he added.

The two software development companies NEC has contracted are Madras-based Square D, and Bangalore-based Pertech Computers Ltd., both of which are ranked in the top 10 of India's 1,000 software houses.

The two companies will start production in May of the so-called "Middleware," software that acts between the operation system and applications, based on NEC's design. They will each establish a special team of engineers for the NEC project.

In the latter half of the current fiscal year, NEC will set up direct communication lines between itself and

the two houses to make sure of smooth production, according to the spokesman.

Japan: Murayama: SDP May Quit Coalition if Constitution Revised

OW1904091096 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN
(Morning Edition) in Japanese 18 April 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with a review of the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation, Social Democratic Party [SDP] President Tomiichi Murayama said at a news conference held in Yokohama City on 17 April: "We want to observe the government's unified recognition that the use of collective self-defense rights is contradictory to the Constitution. If the possibility of revising the Constitution is taken up for discussion, we have no other choice but to face the situation with resolute attitude." In this way, he gave his view that if the Constitution is revised in connection with the interpretation of collective self-defense rights, the SDP would secede from the ruling coalition administration.

Japan: Official Denies Guilt in Loan Case, May Leave Diet

OW1904025296 Tokyo KYODO in English
0205 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — Former Labor Minister Toshio Yamaguchi pleaded not guilty Friday [19 April] to charges of breach of trust and three other separate counts in a loan scandal.

Yamaguchi, 55, a 10th-term independent member of the House of Representatives, entered the plea of not guilty at the first hearing of his trial at the Tokyo District Court.

He is charged with breach of trust, embezzlement, fraud and perjury in connection with the loan scandal involving two failed credit unions, Tokyo Kyowa Credit Association and Anzen Credit Bank.

Last December, prosecutors arrested and indicted Yamaguchi for allegedly having conspired with former Tokyo Kyowa Chief Harunori Takahashi, former Anzen Chief Shinsuke Suzuki and Yamaguchi's sister, Yoshie, to arrange 2.7 billion yen in illegal loans from Tokyo Kyowa and Anzen for the sister's company.

Yamaguchi, who served as labor minister from 1984 to 1985 in the cabinet of then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, has been detained at the Tokyo Detention House since his arrest Dec. 6.

The 60-year-old sister, who has also been indicted on breach of trust charges, denied she conspired with her brother at her first trial session March 28.

Yamaguchi has been charged with embezzling money from two foundations, where he was a board member, to use as collateral for loans to the companies run by his relatives.

On Thursday three former secretaries to the former labor minister pleaded guilty to embezzlement charges, admitting to having conspired with Yamaguchi.

He has been charged with fraud amounting to some 170 million yen from a university in Kumamoto Prefecture, southwestern Japan, in connection with a failed scheme to build a university in the United States.

Yamaguchi has also been indicted on charges of perjury for falsely testifying about the loan scandal before a lower house budget panel last June.

"I deeply feel social and moral responsibility. I would like to decide on resignation (from the Diet) at an appropriate time," Yamaguchi said in a statement at the court.

Japan: Koizumi: Time for Elderly Leaders 'To Retire'

962B0061A Tokyo GENDAI in Japanese Apr 96
pp 104-105

[Interview with Junichiro Koizumi, former posts and telecommunications minister, by Yoshito Koeda under the "Keyperson" rubric; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Koeda] Mr. Koizumi, you had a meeting with Economic Planning Agency Director General Shusei Tanaka of the New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] and former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa of Shinshinto [New Frontier Party] on 13 February. The meeting is causing a ripple since it is a unique gathering in the political world.

[Koizumi] I have not had any contact with Mr. Hosokawa for some time, but he supported me when I argued for the privatization of postal and telecommunication services during the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] presidential election last fall. Mr. Tanaka also extended his support, saying that "I would cast a ballot for Mr. Koizumi if I were in the LDP." I was very grateful to him. Such being the case, we met together to celebrate Mr. Tanaka's inauguration as a minister.

[Koeda] Does that mean you share common views regarding administrative reform?

[Koizumi] While serving as prime minister, Mr. Hosokawa had a hard time handling resistance from bureaucrats. I also had much trouble in collecting 30 recommendations in the party presidential election because reviewing postal and telecommunication services is considered a taboo. Mr. Tanaka also deplored that

"Sakigake is a party that is most eager for administrative reform, but the work of curtailing and consolidating special corporations last year met with rough going and consequently failed to realize any result." The three of us all know through personal experiences that it is easier to preach than to practice concerning administrative reform. That night, we conversed with one another for about two hours and, as a result, reached a consensus opinion that "there can be no ruling or opposition party when dealing with administrative reform." We decided to present concrete policies, including the reorganization of ministries and agencies as well as the decentralization of power. Alliances of political parties and persons are the major substance of the current political world, and we find no difference in policies anywhere. In order to break down this situation, we must build an axis which, with administrative reform as its major pillar, will rally forces; we also must present concrete theory despite expected opposition. We will shortly start a study group.

[Koeda] I hear that the election system was also brought up as a topic at the meeting.

[Koizumi] We see an argument surfacing these days that the system should be reviewed. I was originally against the small constituency system, but I think that we have to experience an election under the new system only once. Otherwise, nostalgia for the small constituency system will remain. I said that once people test this system once and realize the shortcomings, they will not feel a lingering attachment. Once that occurs, we can tackle revising the system. Mr. Tanaka contended that "now that we know the system is bad, we should change it before it is enforced." Mr. Hosokawa expressed the view that "public opinion was against the medium-size constituency system, and in such an atmosphere, we probably had no alternative but to act the way we did." At any rate, it was agreed that "the small constituency system coupled with proportional representation is not good." I listened to them with a grin, thinking that it was interesting to see the two political reform advocates now regretting what they did. [laughter]

[Koeda] I understand that you exchanged views on political restructuring as well.

[Koizumi] I think it is a possibility that alliances among political circles will change after the general election. However, both Mr. Hosokawa and Mr. Tanaka seem to think that restructuring is fully possible even before the election. They appear to think that a plan for a new party between the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] and Sakigake is not proceeding well and that the possibility of Shinshinto's split cannot be ruled out.

However, when a restructuring appears imminent, Prime Minister Hashimoto will dissolve the Diet, will he not?

Elders, Please Retire Voluntarily

[Koeda] That is because Prime Minister Hashimoto would like to have the election while his support rate is high.

[Koizumi] His popularity is higher than expected. However, I believe that this is attributable to the infiltration of the three-party coalition into the minds of the people. Let us suppose that Mr. Kono held the top post. He would also enjoy the same high support rate, would he not? I think that this indicates that a prime minister from the LDP is more natural than one from the SDPJ. As to the timing of the Diet dissolution, when Mr. Murayama handed power to Mr. Hashimoto, an accord or some such arrangement seems to have been reached that the SDPJ's and Sakigake's delay in preparing for the election would be taken into consideration. According to what I hear, there is something like a promise or an understanding based on a relationship of trust that the dissolution will be carried out after June.

[Koeda] Well, Group Shinseiki run by YKK [an LDP faction led by Yamasaki, Koizumi, and Kato] opened its door to SDPJ and Sakigake members in addition to LDP Diet members. What is the aim of this move?

[Koizumi] The LDP has been able to return to power because of the SDPJ's and Sakigake's cooperation. To cherish this relationship of trust, we need to introduce their new blood and this is the aim. As you know, some people in our party — on the grounds that the three-party coalition does not sit well with them as a perception — would like to reunite with those who bolted from the LDP. Among them are persons who have as powerful an influence as the state-run broadcasting station, and so I symbolically called them NHK (Nakasone, Hashimoto, and Kajiyama). However, YKK considers it fundamental to cherish the relationship of trust among the LDP, the SDPJ, and Sakigake. So, Mr. H [Hashimoto] may consider himself to represent a between group. [laughter]

[Koeda] Do you feel that a shift has been made from the era of NHK to the era of YKK?

[Koizumi] Mr. Koichi Kato is chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council and Mr. Taku Yamasaki chairman of the Diet Affairs Committee, while I ran for the party's president. The three of us have thus appeared on the central stage. This may represent what is called the tide of the times. Common sense tells us that it is about time for elders to retire voluntarily, does it not?

Mr. Junichiro Koizumi: Successively served as health and welfare minister and posts and telecommunications minister; challenged Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto in the LDP presidential election in September last year; Born in 1942; Graduated from Keio University.

Japan: End Said in Sight for Murayama-Led Socialist Party

962B0046A Tokyo GENDAI in Japanese Mar 96 pp 80-83

[Article by Osami Kunihiro, political journalist]

[FBIS Translated Text] Resignation as Prime Minister enabled killing three birds with one stone

"Election system reform? That's a good idea. March forward with the idea. March forward."

The location was a restaurant in the Akasaka section of Tokyo on the eve of 23 January. Tomiichi Murayama who had just become the first Socialist Democratic Party president to fill the position of prime minister was in a cheerful mood. His drinking party included Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Kazo Watanabe and his political supporters. When Watanabe stated, "Now that you have resigned as prime minister, shall we abolish the small-electoral-district system?" Murayama responded in a highly enthusiastic mood.

Notwithstanding, Murayama is a strange politician whose outlook has expanded since he resigned from the position of premier. He surrendered ruling government power just as everything seemed to be going wrong politically, but the suddenness of his exit required that immediate attention be focused on a successor and selection of a new cabinet, eliminating any notion of a "political retreat before an enemy offensive."

On 5 January, Murayama held a resignation press conference at which he said, "I have decided to undergo a spiritual renewal as I look up at the blue skies of the New Year," but that was not a factual statement. In reality, he was looking for an opportunity to resign ever since the closing of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference held in Osaka in November of last year. Evidence of this assessment rests with the fact that Murayama, who normally cracks jokes in dealing with the press corps, became sharply reticent after APEC and his concerned secretary even went as far as to present him with a stationary bicycle exerciser to cheer him up.

About that time, the situation surrounding Murayama had deteriorated. Parliamentary action on the postwar 50-year resolution beginning with the law to aid atomic bomb victims, establishment of the fund to compensate

military comfort women, and aid to Mizumata disease victims, goals which Murayama had set out to achieve, had been completed. And what remained for disposition included the application of the Destructive Activities Prevention Law to the Aum Supreme Faith which he had long opposed as a Socialist Party member and the use of public funds to resolve the housing loan company issue which was vehemently opposed by public opinion. Moreover, appreciable progress was not being made in resolving the Okinawa military base issue and a Japan-U.S. summit was pending with President Clinton after the New Year with Okinawa to become one of the main agenda items.

Such major issues were too much of a burden for Murayama who had sustained his government powers by advocating only the disposition of postwar issues with a view of preserving the survival of the Socialist Party. He even had to increase the dosage of sleeping pills which he uses habitually.

It was current Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, LDP president, who prompted Murayama into proceeding with his idea of resignation. Hashimoto, who quietly visited the Prime Minister's Residence on 5 December of last year, stated, "Once the budget is approved, I would like to resign as minister of international trade and industry and return to my party duties." Hashimoto's words caused Murayama to make a final decision. A movement was rapidly taking shape in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on the part of former Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama to establish a form of party independence. If the LDP, which somehow managed to support the Murayama administration, decides to abandon the coalition, Murayama will face miserable destruction during the housing loan company issue debates in the regular Diet session after New Year or would be forced into a general election. His only option—in order to postpone general elections, in which the Socialist Party would face certain destruction because of the lack of election preparations—would be for him to transfer ruling power to the LDP and postpone events that affect party survival. Murayama chose to take that course of action.

Subsequent actions by Murayama were swift. Four days later on 2 December, he summoned his close ally Shinto Sakigake President Masayoshi Takemura to a sushi shop located in the Akasaka Mitsuke Station Building of the subway system and started off the discussion by saying, "I want to resign before the regular Diet session in January." Murayama was very shrewd in divulging his decision to Takemura instead of his Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka. Takemura would definitely become the target of the New Frontier Party (NFP), once the regular Diet session is open, on issues such

as the Ministry of Finance scandals and the murky housing loan company disposition plans. Moreover, the Sakigake had indicated reluctance to join forces with the Socialist Party that Murayama was striving for. Thus, if Murayama would arrange a mass resignation of the cabinet, Takemura could avoid being embattled during Diet sessions and the Sakigake would become closer to the Socialist Party as a result of being obligated to it because of Murayama's resignation as prime minister.

Further, if Murayama would transfer the premiership to Hashimoto, the Socialist Party could continue to exercise influence as part of the coalition. Additionally, he figured, if Hashimoto is the prime minister, attention would be focused on his responsibilities as minister of finance in connection with the housing loan company issue, postponing a House of Representatives dissolution. He assumed he could "kill three birds with one stone."

Party Affairs Given Priority Over National Government Affairs

For Takemura, the action to be taken by Murayama was very opportune. If he were to be forced to resign because of the housing loan company issue, it would be difficult for him to fill a key position for the near term, but his personal record would remain clean if he were to leave his cabinet post under a mass resignation. Just as Murayama had assessed would happen, from the middle of December, Takemura began to say, "It will be acceptable for some who oppose joining forces with the Socialist Party to fall from our ranks."

The fact that Murayama and Takemura's ulterior motives to give priority to the survival of their parties and their own positions over national government affairs coincided is the true reason for the January resignation drama.

Once an agreement had been reached with Takemura, Murayama assumed an apathetic posture. He repeatedly stated in reference to the application of the Destructive Activities Prevention Law to the Aum Supreme Faith and the housing loan company issue that they called for "difficult decisions" and newspapers quoted his statements about "taking on all sorts of problems," as expressions of mental anguish, but they were really made in jest. Now that he knew he was going to resign from his position, even Takemura could logically speak with confidence. When asked about his resignation after making a decision on the disposition of the housing loan company issue, he assumed a firm attitude and said, "I am aware of the posture that should be taken by a politician." At that particular point, both of them could only think of what should be done in connection with the mass resignation of the cabinet.

On 29 December, the two made a decision to "resign on 5 January." The 5th of January had been designated as the final date for candidates to register for the position of Socialist Party chairperson. The strategy would provide for a scenario in which the Murayama could resign with prime ministerial influence still behind him and immediately post himself as a party chairman candidate, thus enabling him to restrain the anti-Murayama faction within the party whose members would be "afflicted with the desire to fill ministerial posts."

Then, at 2200, on the evening 4 January, Murayama informed Nosaka for the first time about his decision to resign. That evening, when he visited the Prime Minister's Residence, Murayama was not the only one waiting for Nosaka. Already, Takemura and Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Sonoda had arrived. As Nosaka frantically tried to persuade Murayama to abandon his idea of resignation, Takemura and Sonoda would only say, "We would like to respect the premier's decision."

As Murayama had judged, once he issued his decision to resign, key position seeking movements within the Socialist Party were intense. The first to visit the Prime Minister's Residence was then Diet Countermeasures Committee Chairman Takanobu Nagai (current minister of labor), who previously openly criticized Murayama and one year earlier had even planned to resign from the party along with former party chairman Sadao Yamahana. On the other hand, Sukio Iwatare (current Environment Agency director general), who had declared himself to be a part of the Murayama faction, and his group planned a party to rally behind the prime minister in an effort to regain their positions. When the Hosokawa government was established, Ichiro Ozawa, who is the current president of the NFP, asserted, "Now that the Socialist Party has had a taste of the poisoned apple known as 'power,' there is nothing to fear," and he predicted just this sort of scenario. Even Socialist Party Chief Secretary Wataru Kubo, who had engaged in an intense struggle with Murayama for leadership in the party, made frequent visits to the Prime Minister's Residence.

Inside Story of Crude Party Reform

The Socialist Party dedicated itself to matters associated with the selection of cabinet members and Murayama nominated Kubo for the position of finance minister over which Kubo became preoccupied and the former used the attendant confusion to gain complete control over intraparty affairs. Under such circumstances, the issue of party name; i.e., whether it should be "Socialist Democratic Party" or "Democratic Party," became the sole concern of Murayama and he wasted no time in

selecting the name of "Socialist Democratic Party." The English designation of the Socialist Party for some time has been "Social Democratic Party," which means that the name change was a very minor one. It was a very appropriate selection for Murayama, since he had pursued the survival of the Socialist Party to the very end. He made national government affairs a secondary matter, and effected a deceptive, superficial party reform. Even Sakigake Senior Secretary Yukio Hatoyama who looks forward to joining forces with the Socialist Democratic Party grimaced as he said, "The effected change provides no sense of a desire to become a new party," but it was already too late.

It was much like the Socialist Party to witness a rekindling of a struggle between the right and left factions relative to key party personnel assignments as the party rally neared. But, here again, Murayama's ability to unify party members proved effective. Kanju Sato, who had assumed duties as secretary general, had even gone as far as to prepare his resignation from the party along with Yamahana one year back, but he had changed allegiances in the mean time. Basically, he was regarded as a light weight despite his seniority as a parliamentarian, but under these circumstances Yamahana who was isolated into a position where he might have to face exile alone had nothing to look forward to.

Even movements by House of Representatives Budget Committee Chairman Kosuke Uehara, who was recommended as an opposing candidate to Sato, were strange. He figured that if he ran as a candidate for secretary general, he would have to give up his position as Budget Committee chairman. He decided against becoming a secretary general candidate which carried no guarantee of appointment in favor of retaining his current position. The words of an Uehara confidant who uttered, "If you remain as the budget committee chairman, you are assured the assignment of a car by the Diet," indicated the low value of getting involved in a struggle over the position of secretary general.

Takemura kept an eye on such movements in the Socialist Party as he deliberately took action as party chairman. If the Socialist Party and Sakigake join forces as promised by Murayama, there is no mistaking that Takemura will become the new party chief. This will be a true case of the "midget swallowing the giant." This being the case, Senior Representative Shusei Tanaka, who is cautious about the joining forces between the two parties, was given an appointment to the cabinet as director general of the Economic Planning Agency. And, then, Takemura suddenly had himself hospitalized on the 23rd just before the parliamentary debate was to start on the housing loan company issue for the purpose

of being treated for a ruptured disk of the cervical vertebrae. He was thus able to temporarily escape being questioned about the ministry's responsibilities concerning the housing loan company debacle.

Hashimoto Seeks Early Dissolution of the House of Representatives

It was 8 January when the Socialist Party and Sakigake were totally engrossed in personnel matters. Hashimoto, who had been tentatively selected for the premiership, switched cars a few times in order to shake off pursuit by the press corps and disappeared into a Japanese restaurant within the Hotel Otani. Waiting there was former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. Subsequently, it will be reported that Nakasone pushed Kajiyama as chief cabinet secretary, but that meeting served as an encounter for the exchange of even more interesting stories.

Nakasone: You enjoy a high degree of popularity with the public. If the support ratings are high when you finish disposing of the housing loan company issue, you should promptly proceed with a dissolution of the House of Representatives.

Hashimoto: Yes, I am well aware of the need for such an approach. Newspaper reports say that when the government powers were transferred to me, Murayama asked me to postpone the general election, but that story is not true.

The two had come to the conclusion that Ichiro Ozawa and Tsutomu Hata, who had struggled over the leadership of the NFP, had reached the point of no return in terms of relationships. If the LDP seeks a recovery of an independent ruling party role, it should not wait for a merger between the Socialist Party and the Sakigake and proceed with an early dissolution, while the NFP faces turmoil and possible disintegration.

On the evening when he met with Nakasone, Hashimoto, who had returned home to a waiting group of press corps members, said, "Don't ask me any private questions," as if he were upset, but his eyes were gleaming with laughter. In complete contrast to his superficial position of maintaining the coalition, Hashimoto's mind was completely devoid of any thought of either the Socialist or Sakigake parties.

In the last general election, the Socialist Party waged its election campaign on an anti-LDP theme, but wheel of fortune have finally turned to the point where it ironically assisted in the restoration of a government headed by an LDP president. That LDP is now aiming for the restoration of independent government powers through early dissolution of the House of Representatives. The political situation since his announcement of resignation

has definitely evolved as he had expected. However, was it really the right thing for him to do when he transferred the premiership to the LDP? The end is in sight for the SDP.

Japan: Kim Chong-il's Nephew Gives DPRK 'Behind-The-Scenes Look'

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9 Mar 96 p 40-43

[Article by Masaki Tachikawa, journalist: "Why Did Kim Chong-il's Wife Desert Him?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Behind the drama of the defection of Kim Chong-il's wife Song Hye-rim (age 59), which came to light on 13 February, was an elaborate secret operation that would put a Hollywood spy movie to shame. This operation was carried out by her true sister Song Hye-rang (age 61), who lived with Song Hye-rim in Moscow, and her [Song Hye-rang's] eldest son, Yi Han-yong (age 36), who defected to South Korea in 1982. Actually, because Mr. Yi, who defected to South Korea 13 years ago by way of Switzerland where he was a student, was an influential member of the Kim Chong-il family, even the fact of his defection had not been revealed by the South Korean government until now.

Mr. Yi, a valuable witness who knows the inner workings of the "Kim regime" having once lived with secretary-general Kim Chong-il (age 54) and his aunt Song Hye-rim for three years, was a key man in Song Hye-rim's recent defection. *Shukan Gendai* is the first among the mass media that has succeeded in obtaining an interview with Yi Han-yong. We spent four hours of questioning to get a behind-the-scenes look at Kim Chong-il, ruler of North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea).

"The recent defection by my mother, Song Hye-rang and my aunt Song Hye-rim was an event that symbolizes the collapse of the Kim regime. Since the passing of Kim Il-song on 8 July 1994, more than 150 people have defected from North Korea to South Korea. There was even an incident in January in which husband and wife diplomats at the Zambian embassy in Zambia defected together.

"In this way, even members of the so-called elite stratum who belong to the "core class (ruling class)" that supports the original North Korean system have despaired of North Korea's future and have begun a mass defection."

Summary of Song Hye-rim's Defection

Song Hye-rim was born in what is currently Kyongsamnamdo in South Korea and her family had moved to

Pyong-yang prior to the Korean War. In 1967 secretary-general Kim Chong-il began to take notice of Song Hye-rim, who was North Korea's premier actress. They began living together and in 1971 Chong-nam, the eldest son, was born to secretary-general Kim Chong-il and Song Hye-rang. However, in 1973, secretary-general Kim Chong-il began to favor Kim Yong-suk, who was employed in the typewriter office at the official residence. From the shock of this development, Song Hye-rim suffered a nervous breakdown and departed with her sister Song Hye-rang to Moscow for a protracted stay ostensibly for treatment of the former's illness. The sisters left Moscow around 20 January and entered Switzerland. Currently it is said they are in a third country negotiating with the South Korean and United States governments concerning their ultimate destination to take refuge.

"Following on the heels of the drama of Song Hye-rim's defection was the incident in which a North Korean soldier seeking to defect at the Russian Embassy in Pyong-yang broke in and was shot to death, which occurred over the 14th and 15th of February.

"Actually, however, there have been several similar incidents that have occurred. In 1975 a student applied for refuge at the Indonesia Embassy in the city of Pyong-yang, but he was immediately handed over to North Korean authorities and executed by firing squad. Despite the fact that the North Korean system is supposed to be a perfectly controlled society, one event after another indicate it is increasingly coming apart at the seams. Even if we do not try to work it from the outside, the natural collapse of the North Korean system has already begun.

"Since October of last year I began in the strictest of secrecy to contact my mother living in Moscow by phone for the first time in 14 years and made repeated attempts to persuade her to defect with Song Hye-rim."

"The Kim Regime is Not Likely to Last Even Three Years"

"I myself defected to South Korea from Switzerland where I was a student in October 1982. I defected because I wanted to continue the free life that I was able to know by living abroad, but I did not speak about my defection to anyone, not even family. The South Korean government was kind enough to also keep the fact of my defection a total secret until the recent defection of my mother and aunt. Even in North Korea, the reason for my disappearance was not considered to be due to defection. They seem to have thought I had become involved in some kind of accident. This is a singularly extraordinary case. Because I was a member of the Kim

Chong-il family, even the South Korean government gave me special consideration.

"My mother apparently believed I had died somewhere and was quite astonished to hear from me, but it did not take long to harden her determination to defect. The main concern shared by my mother and myself was for my younger sister, Nam-ok (age 30), who was left behind in Pyong-yang. Nam-ok was in Kim-chong-il's official residence in Pyong-yang up until the time of the defection. She was studying in Paris but an order to return home was issued by Kim Chong-il.

"In December of last year my mother returned to Pyong-yang on the pretext of spending the New Year's holidays with the Kim Chong-il family and it was during the first ten days of January of this year that she returned with my younger sister to Moscow. Nam-ok also succeeded in defecting with my mother and aunt.

"My mother, having seen the current conditions in Pyong-yang, said, 'In Pyong-yang, the economic situation in North Korea has deteriorated to an extreme degree; even the wives of the elite class do not have detergent to do their laundry.' Further, she complained that 'in North Korea, there is corruption, such as the rampant bribing of upper class people, among other things, and the economy is in failing condition; it is not likely to survive even three years. It will topple like a sand castle on the shore.'

"There were several motivating forces involved in the recent decision of my mother and aunt to defect. One was that both of their parents had already passed away and they no longer had any attachments to North Korea.

"Another motivation in their defection was the fact that Kim Chong-il's current wife, Ko Yong-hee has recently come to have increased influence. My mother was fearful that 'Panchiko (a nickname my mother gave to Ko Yong-hee that means button nose) seemed to be trying to get her hands on us sisters. If that happened, we would have been shipped off to the Auji coal mines where political prisoners are sent.' It was at that time that there was a telephone call to Song Hye-rim in Moscow by Song Hye-rim's oldest son Kim Chong-nam (age 25) in Pyong-yang.

"My mother and Song Hye-rim were living in Moscow without an economic care in the world. However, in the case of Song Hye-rim, having lost the love of Kim Chong-il, she was being treated particularly coldly even by her own son Chong-nam.

"Because embezzlement and breach of trust involving an aide who had looked after Song Hye-rim and her sister for more than 20 years was revealed, Chong-nam informed them that the 30 boxes of supplies of goods

being sent to them each month from Pyong-yang would be discontinued. That was in mid-January.

"While Chong-nam had no formal title with the Party, his statement-making authority as 'Kim Chong-il's eldest son' was total. The contents of the 30 boxes were the necessities of life, such as Kimchi, soy bean paste, etc. There was an anonymous report that the problem aide had apparently embezzled a portion of these necessary items that had been sent and was misappropriating them at the markets in the city of Moscow. Even though that was all there was to it, he said he would unilaterally discontinue the supply of goods. It could be that shortages of those goods had developed in Pyong-yang so there was nothing available to send my mother and the rest or it could have been way of putting them on notice that my mother and her sister would be purged.

"Chong-nam told Song Hye-rim, 'From now on, you will not use the cash currently in your possession to live and, further, you will not be allowed to meet with Papa (Kim Chong-il).'

"This is hardly the way a person's flesh and blood son should speak to his mother.

"In Pyong-yang, Chong-nam was being referred to as 'Crown Prince.' There is another son Kim Chong-chol, who was approaching 15 years of age and who was born between Kim Chong-il and his current wife, Ko Yong-hee. There is talk concerning which of the two will become Kim Chong-il's successor.

"However, judging from the way he interacts with Chong-nam, it could even be described as excessive dotting. Kim Chong-il called Chong-nam 'Bukan' (number one follower) and treated him with great affection."

Selfishness of the "Successor" Kim Chong-nam

"I lived with Kim Chong-il and his son Chong-nam at Kim Chong-il's government establishment called the "Official Residence No. 15" in Pyong-yang. I will talk about the private lifestyle of Kim Chong-il and his son at official residence no. 15 about which only I know.

"I was at the official residence No. 15 for six years from age 10 to 16, which was about 26 years ago. I feel as though I was in heaven at that time. Even in terms of just the building site, there was 100,000 tsubo [1 tsubo = approx. 3.954 sq. yards]. The main building where Kim Chong-il and my mother lived was 2,000 tsubo just in floor space. It was the same sort of luxuriousness that I saw in a magazine of the palace of the king of Brunei, the richest country in the world and although the annex where my mother and I etc., lived was 500 tsubo, even now after coming

to South Korea I have not seen such an extravagant house. The official residence had a pool and even a movie theater, and the stock of movies numbered in excess of 10,000. I too watched movies every day. I saw American movies such as the "The Battleship Bounty" and Japanese movies such as the "The Yellow Handkerchief of Happiness," among others. I was a fan of Keiko Matsuzaka and Momoe Yamaguchi. Moreover, the palace had the only equipment in North Korea that could receive Japanese and South Korean television broadcasts. That was another thing to look forward to. Ordinary people cannot watch foreign television, but a massive antenna had been installed in Kaesong City near the 38th parallel which receives South Korean television broadcasts.

"Because Kim Chong-nam was a child, he enjoyed South Korean comedy programs immensely. He never failed to watch "Laughter Brings Happiness," which was a popular program at the time. There is a famous comedian named Yi Chu-il in South Korea to whom Chong-nam took a liking and for awhile he was even demanding the impossible, saying "bring that comedian to Pyong-yang." Also, Chong-nam liked Japanese professional wrestling and was a huge fan of Antonio Iki and action star Shin'ichi Chiba. It is likely that a major reason for Kim Chong-il summoning Antonio Iki in April of last year and having such a passion for professional wrestling performances in Pyong-yang was because his son Chong-nam was such an avid Iki fan.

"Meals at the official residence included Western, North Korean, and Chinese cuisine, among others, and there were six specialized chefs. Procuring food, etc., was the job of the Security Bureau No. 2 Dept. 9 which imported high quality foods from Japan and Europe.

"There are innumerable examples that demonstrate Kim Chong-il's dotting on Chong-nam. A video of Chong-nam at around the age of two shows a scene of Kim Chong-il hurriedly bringing a milk bottle to use instead of a chamber pot just before Chong-nam urinates and there was another in which he has Chong-nam sit on top of a massive table in a dining room of the official residence while Kim Chong-il sits in front of him having a meal.

"Chong-nam did not go to school like ordinary children. Instead, a private tutor was summoned to the official residence for four to five hours of study per day. I have never seen Chong-nam being scolded by his father. Once when a rash appeared on Chong-nam's face and they were about to take him to the hospital, Chong-nam expressed his dislike of hospitals and would not obey. Thereupon, when Kim Chong-il said that he would give him whatever one thing he wants if he would go

to the hospital, Chong-nam begged, "I want the same Mercedes Benz as Papa."

"From 1980 to 1982 Kim Chong-nam studied abroad at the International School in Geneva Switzerland, and this incident happened when I, who at the time was studying at Moscow University, went to visit Chong-nam in Geneva. There was a telephone call to the room from Kim Chong-il. Kim Chong-il seemed intoxicated as if he had been drinking and tearfully pleaded to Chong-nam, 'hurry home because I hate to spend New Year's alone.'

"Kim Chong-il's love of drinking is well known. In the 1960s he practically bathed in Chinese Mao-tais; in the 1970s it was Cognac, and in the '80s it was his habit to drink whiskey. Drinking and his son were how he relieved his solitude.

"Next, I will talk about Kim Chong-il's assets.

"When they defected recently, Song Hye-rim and my mother had about two million dollars in cash. This money included some money my aunt Song Hye-rim received from Kim Chong-il when she left for her Moscow cure in 1974 as well as various bribes collected from subordinates in Moscow. In North Korea it is only natural that one give bribes to superiors. Kim Chong-il is said to have more than 70 hidden accounts in Swiss banks which are being managed by Swiss ambassador Yi Chol, and is under strict supervision.

"Recently Swiss banks have been returning the hidden money saved by the Marcos to the Philippine government incrementally, and for a while the withdrawal of hidden money was frozen due to unstable political conditions inside the Philippines.

"It is said that to prevent the same thing happening to him, Kim Chong-il has had his hidden accounts dispersed into Macao, Singapore, and other places.

"As for when Song Hye-rim will go to South Korea, the South Korean government has probably decided that allowing her to immediately enter South Korea would serve to severely agitate Kim Chong-il. For the moment, I would think cautious consideration will be taken not to give any excuses to refuse North-South dialog due to the recent defection and have her stay in some third country, such as America, etc."

Excerpt From Internal South Korean National Security Planning Agency Information Obtained by Shukan Gendai

In addition to its past economic troubles, due to the flood damage of last year, the economic scale of North Korea has shrunk as much as 21 percent compared to Fiscal Year 1989. The energy shortage is particularly

serious and while there was demand for 3.5 million tons of petroleum, only 0.91 million tons was supplied, and even demand for 4.1 million kW of electric power could only be supplied with a mere 2.64 kW. Meanwhile military exercises by the North Korean military have expanded by approximately 1.5 times in FY 1994 and 1995, which is aggravating military tensions. Going into this year, it deployed 240mm artillery and 170mm self-propelled artillery on its front lines and has entered a combat-ready condition, having targeted the South Korean capital area. In every region circuit courts have been initiated, and even acts of intimidation including public executions by firing squad of about two to three people per day are performed in locations where about 30,000 residents have been rounded up in a desperate attempt maintain the current system.

The True Picture of Kim Chong-il the Realist

"Kim Chong-il is neither the adventurer nor the simpleton that the harsh criticism in the South Korean and Japanese press would indicate. Since the 1960s he has been trained as the successor to Kim Il-song, and he has a firm grasp on real power. According to reports by the South Korean press, there are views that he is planning a military provocation against the South to enhance domestic solidarity, but this is the case made by people who do not know Kim Chong-il's character.

"If war occurs it will destroy both North and South. If that happens, the Kim regime that has been built up until now will be destroyed by his own hand. He is most likely calmly pondering his own future. Although Russia and Cuba had once been possible destinations for exile in the event of a rebellion or coup d'etat, in the current state of affairs, there is no place for him to go. For that reason, he must have made the judgement that the only path to his survival is to maintain his power even if it means coming to terms with the United States and South Korea.

"In fact, we had devised a plan to get Chong-nam to defect. However, we abandoned the plan because if we revealed it to Chong-nam there was a very good chance he would have immediately reported it to his father Kim Chong-il. While affording the proper treatment to my half brother Kim Byong-il who is ambassador to Finland and Kim Il-song's widow Kim Song-e, we have adopted a make or break strategy. The scenario of them aiming to make a coup d'etat against Kim Chong-il would be difficult because of the strict supervision.

Even so, there is no way to stem the internal collapse in the face of continuing defections. There is no doubt that the footsteps of catastrophe feared by Kim Chong-il are approaching one by one.

Japan: Benchmark Money Supply Rises 3.0 Percent in Mar*OW1804123596 Tokyo KYODO in English
1206 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO — Japan's benchmark money supply rose at a year-on-year rate of 3.0 percent in March, expanding 0.2 percentage point from a revised 2.8 percent advance in February, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) said in a preliminary report Thursday [18 Apr].

The average outstanding balance of the key money supply M2 — cash in circulation and demand and time deposits — plus certificates of deposit (CDs) stood at 547.9 trillion yen in the reporting month, the BOJ report said.

March's M2 expansion from the month-earlier level reflected the continued shift to high-liquidity financial instruments, such as cash and demand deposits, to avoid record low level interest rates, a BOJ official said.

In addition, "the March growth rate of 3.0 percent in the key money supply was in the central bank's earlier projection, and followed a moderate recovery in the economy," the official said.

Among M2, CDs surged 75.0 percent in March from the year-earlier level, the highest increase since the March 1984 rise of 76.5 percent.

The rise is attributed to some financial institutions actively issuing CDs in the reporting month ahead of the hike in insurance premium rates from April by deposit insurance corp. In order to avoid increasing their deposit balance, he said.

M1, consisting of cash in circulation and demand deposits, posted a hefty 16.4 percent year-on-year growth in March, the largest since February 1974 when it marked a 17.5 percent rise, the BOJ official said.

In March, cash in circulation increased 9.3 percent from a year before and demand deposits marked a 18.9 percent rise, the biggest since November 1973 when deposits rose 20.3 percent, he said.

On the other hand, quasi-money like time deposits dropped 3.8 percent from a year earlier, the sharpest fall, he said.

The average outstanding balance of the widest measure of the money supply, broad liquidity, grew 3.4 percent in March from a year before to 1,099.8 trillion yen but was down from a 3.6 percent increase in February, the boj report said.

Broad liquidity includes M3 (M2 plus postal savings, credit association deposits, loan trusts and money

trusts), along with CDs, bank debentures and government bonds.

Japan: BOJ Notes Economy on 'Moderate' Recovery Path*OW1904100196 Tokyo KYODO in English
0833 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — The Japanese economy is recovering moderately and is expected to continue on a moderate but autonomous recovery path led by fixed business investment and personal consumption, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) said in its quarterly economic outlook Friday [19 Apr].

Both short-term and long-term interest rates are higher than in December 1995 as the moderate economic recovery has now been discounted in the market, the central bank said.

Japan: 'Jusen' Banks 'Will Not Shoulder Additional Burdens'*OW1904041496 Tokyo KYODO in English
0340 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — Banks that founded "jusen" housing loan companies will not shoulder additional burdens beyond relinquishment of all their loans to the moribund mortgage loan companies, a banking leader said Friday [18 April].

Shunsaku Hashimoto, soon-to-be chairman of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, said, "We will fulfill our responsibility by giving up all our claims as the maximum burden on a legal basis."

Hashimoto made the remarks as an unsworn witness before the House of Councillors Budget Committee.

Under the government's scheme to dispose of the seven ailing housing loan companies, founder banks are requested to abandon 3.5 trillion yen in all their loans to the companies to finance part of losses to be incurred from the liquidation of the mortgage companies suffering from a massive amount of bad loans.

With public criticism growing over the government's decision to use taxpayers' money for the liquidation scheme, the founding banks are under pressure to shoulder more burden to take responsibility for the bad loan mess at the housing loan companies.

Hashimoto, president of Sakura Bank, denied the founding banks are immediately responsible for the failure of the housing loan companies.

"Unexpected long-term and sharp declines in land prices and increases in loans by the (government-affiliated)

Housing Loan Corp. have affected the housing loan companies," Hashimoto said.

Hashimoto supported the government-proposed liquidation scheme.

"I strongly hope the budget and jusen disposal-related bills will be approved at an early date and prerequisites to embody the jusen liquidation will be set immediately," Hashimoto said.

Takashi Tamaki, chairman of the Regional Banks Association of Japan, also made comments on the mortgage company liquidation plan as an unsworn witness at the upper house Budget Committee.

Tamaki, president of Chiba Bank, said, "Careless lending led to the failure of jusen companies."

He said he is reconsidering this point as one of the founder banks and a member of the banking industry.

Japan: Trade Surplus Below \$100 Billion; Lowest in 4 Years

OW1804115296 Tokyo KYODO in English
0103 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO — Japan's merchandise trade surplus in fiscal 1995 dropped 18.4 percent from the previous year to 96.20 billion dollars, posting the year-on-year decline for the second consecutive year, the Finance Ministry said Thursday [18 April].

It was the first time in four years that Japan's trade surplus was below the 100 billion dollar mark.

For fiscal 1995, which ended March 31, exports increased 7.7 percent to 440.10 billion dollars, rising for 13 years in a row, the ministry said.

Imports advanced 18.4 percent to 343.89 billion dollars, marking the fourth consecutive year of increase, it said.

Japan's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States in fiscal 1995 decreased 27.1 percent to 40.58 billion dollars, the first fall in five years, the ministry said.

In March alone, Japan's trade surplus fell 22.8 percent from a year earlier to 10.69 billion dollars, decreasing for the ninth straight month, it said.

Exports dropped 8.3 percent to 39.05 billion dollars, decreasing for the second successive month, while imports dropped 1.3 percent to 28.36 billion dollars, the first decline in 37 months, it said.

In trade with the U.S. In March, Japan left a surplus of 3.28 billion dollars, down 35.6 percent and a decrease for the 10th consecutive month.

Japan: Official: Surplus 'Narrowing Faster Than Expected'

OW1804115796 Tokyo KYODO in English
0719 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO — Japan's trade surplus is narrowing faster than expected as the yen's continued strength has prompted Japanese companies to accelerate overseas operations, a senior Trade Ministry official said Thursday [18 April].

The surplus fell below 100 billion dollars in fiscal 1995, one year ahead of expectations, Tomio Tsutsumi, vice minister of international trade and industry, said at a press conference.

Earlier in the day, the Finance Ministry reported Japan's merchandise trade surplus in fiscal 1995 through March decreased 18.4 percent from the previous year to 96.2 billion dollars.

With regard to Taiheiyo Coal Mining Co.'s plan announced Thursday to radically rationalize operations in Kushiro, Hokkaido, Tsutsumi said Japanese coal mining companies are seeking means of survival as domestic coal prices are three times higher than those of overseas coal.

Japan: JADI Events for FY1996 Announced

OW1904075396 Tokyo GEKKAN JADI in Japanese
Apr 96 p 75

[Unattributed article from "Association Events" column]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Operations Liaison Committee

On 15 February 1996 (Thursday), the 10th Operations Liaison Committee Meeting was held. It dealt with problems brought up during the FY1995 3rd Board of Directors [BOD] Meeting and other pending problems.

Forum for Sub-Committee Chairmen, Others

On the afternoon of 19 February 1996 (Monday), the second forum for sub-committee chairmen and others for this fiscal year took place at JADI. Opinions were exchanged and mutual understanding sought among the chairman of the Operations Liaison Committee, the chairmen of the 11 sub-committees, and others. In certain cases, new sub-committee chairmen had been selected shortly before. So at the get-together party after the meeting those present exchanged name cards, held chats and otherwise interacted amidst a cordial atmosphere.

18th Telecommunications/GM Forum

On the morning of 13 March 1996 (Wednesday), from 8:00-9:30, this meeting was held at the Hotel Grand Hill Ichigaya. In attendance were the following Defense Agency officials: Deputy Director General Kyoji Yanagisawa, Bureau of Equipment Director Hisamitsu Arai, Coordination Division Director Toshio Adachi, Communication Division Director Atsushi Watanabe, and Guided Weapons Office Director Harumi Kanaya.

Japan: EPA Head Urges Stronger Policy-Making Functions

OW1904035696 Tokyo KYODO in English
0307 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — Economic Planning Agency (EPA) head Shusei Tanaka called Friday [18 April] for the strengthening of the agency's economic policy-making functions.

Tanaka, the EPA director general, said at a news conference his agency's policy-making and adjustment functions should be more clearly defined.

Referring to the strong policy-making power wielded by the Finance Ministry, Tanaka said financial administration should be reorganized as part of administrative reforms.

Japan: Keizai Doyukai Report on Security Issues

96P30002A Tokyo KEIZAI DOYUKAI in English
8 Apr 96 pp 1-14

[Text of 'tentative translation' of report by Study Group on Security Issues, Japan Association of Corporate Executives: "Report of the Study Group on Security Issues"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] This report was compiled by the chairman of the Study Group on Security Issues of Keizai Doyukai and is based on the studies and discussions made by the Study Group members. Considering the importance of the report, the Executive Board of Keizai Doyukai has decided to make it available to the public. We hope it serves as a reference to stimulate further discussion of these issues among not only members of Keizai Doyukai but all segments of Japanese society as well. Using this report as a reference point, Keizai Doyukai will continue discussions on security issues and we plan to make proposals on the results of these discussions.

Forward

In the post-Cold War world, there have been frequent eruptions of regional and civil conflict, and the world is neither more stable nor peaceful than it was during the

Cold War period. There is increasing risk of civil war or regional conflict in many areas around the world that do not involve the great powers as they did during the Cold War.

The international environment surrounding Japan certainly cannot be taken lightly either. The worsening of the political and economic situation in North Korea and heightened tensions between China and Taiwan over presidential elections in Taiwan are serious concerns. Domestically as well, Japan has had its share of problems as a result of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, and the sarin subway gas attack. There are other major political issues such as the redefinition of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty and the reevaluation of the Status of Forces Agreement following the rape of an Okinawa schoolgirl by U.S. servicemen.

In light of these circumstances both at home and abroad, the Study Group on Security Issues has carried out its activities based on Keizai Doyukai's plan for fiscal 1995. The group's purpose is researching and studying the path Japan should take on security issues in light of changing international situations.

This study group consists of 44 members of Keizai Doyukai, mainly corporate executives interested in these issues. The Vice Chairmen are Bunichiro Shimura (Chairman, Denki Kagaku Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha), Shijuro Ogata (Senior Advisor, Yamaichi Securities Co., Ltd.) and Tatsuo Asakura (Chairman of the Board, Japan Synthetic Rubber Co., Ltd.). The adviser is the Honorable Hisahiko Okazaki (Senior Adviser, Hakuodo Incorporated), former Japanese Ambassador to Thailand.

This report benefited from the work conducted by the Study Group during fiscal 1994 under the chairmanship of Ryuzaburo Kaku (Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Canon Inc.). We added the views of foreign opinion leaders familiar with Japanese security issues and thoughts of Japanese experts on what would happen during actual crisis situations. As a result, we presented the following as the most important issues concerning security that we would like members of Keizai Doyukai to discuss;

1. Establishment of a proactive diplomacy and a comprehensive defense policy
2. Redefinition of the U.S.-Japan security system
3. Reinterpretation of the exercise of the right of collective self-defense
4. Greater flexibility of the three principles on arms exportation
5. The position of the United Nations in Japanese diplomacy (How to utilize the UN more realistically)

In addition to these issues, we hope there is further discussion on constitutional reform.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to all who came to Japan to speak with our study group, the individuals in Washington D.C. who spoke with us, and everyone involved in the activities of this study group for taking time out of their busy schedules to help create this report.

Toru Kusakawa, Chairman, Study Group on Security Issues, Chairman, Fuji Research Institute Corporation.

I. Introduction

The optimistic view that the end of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union would create a new international order and bring world peace has waned. Many regional conflicts and internal struggles have erupted, including the Gulf War five years ago, civil war in Somalia and Rwanda more recently, and prolonged conflict in the former Yugoslavia. As a result, there is no real sense that the world has become more stable or peaceful than it was during the Cold War era. In fact, there is greater potential for internal wars or regional conflict than there was during the Cold War. At the same time, problems such as the environment, resources, energy, food supply and epidemics are becoming increasingly important as medium- to long-term global issues. There is a danger that these problems, in particular conflicts over resources and energy, could develop into politico-military security issues in the near future.¹

The international environment around Japan is also a cause for concern. The growing seriousness of suspected nuclear arms development and the worsening politico-economic situation in North Korea, and heightened tensions between China and Taiwan over Taiwan's presidential elections give no reason for optimism. Domestically, too, Japan's crisis management system is being questioned in the aftermath of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the subway sarin gas attack. Furthermore, the rape of a Japanese schoolgirl in Okinawa by U.S. servicemen has led to a number of problems, including calls for a redefinition of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, a reevaluation of the Status of Forces Agreement, a questioning of the inequality of the defense burden between the United States and Japan, as well as between Okinawa and mainland Japan.

Up until now, there has not been a great deal of debate on Japan's national security policy. This has been due to our historical experiences, to the so-called "Peace Constitution" and to the relative peace enjoyed since becoming an independent nation, the only debate has been whether certain security issues violated

the Constitution or not; there has been no intensive discussion on security policy itself.

In light of recent changes both at home and abroad, the time has come for us corporate executives, while not experts on defense, to think about these issues. In other words, it has become difficult for corporate executives to formulate a vision for the future without considering these issues because security is vital to our livelihood. We have been making constant efforts to create "A Nation Conceived upon International Collaboration and Humanism" and "A Nation Based on the Principles of a Civil Society" founded on the ideals of "liberty, democracy, human rights and peace." We are trying to be in other words, "A New Peace-Promoting Nation." ² We believe the maintenance of a free capitalist system based on a market economy is a prerequisite for our existence. ³ As Japanese citizens, it is our duty to uphold these universal values along with other people of the world who share these values. Security issues need to be debated and understood. In order to maintain and improve ties with other countries, especially with the United States, mutual understanding of where we stand on this issue is essential.

In this report, our study group continued the work of last year's (fiscal 1994) Study Group on Security Issues (Chairman: Ryuzaburo Kaku, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Canon Inc.) and compiled our discussions on Japan's national security in light of recent changes in the international environment. This year, we asked foreign opinion leaders for their views on Japan's security, as well as Japanese experts for their thoughts on what would happen during actual crisis situations, such as an emergency in the Korean peninsula or China, or the renunciation of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. We focused on areas which are potential problems over the next five years.

The issue of national security is closely connected with Constitutional issues. These issues should have been addressed in this report as well, but as debate on the Constitution requires a great deal of time, we have not focused on it here. Instead, we have considered how Japan can realistically respond to a hypothetical change in the international situation which forces Japan to make some tough decisions. We hope that this report serves to stimulate the continuation of open and meaningful debate on the issue of national security, not just within Keizai Doyukai, but among all segments of Japanese society as well.

II. Current International Affairs and National Security Issues in Japan

1. Our Views of Current International Affairs and the International Environment around Japan

In the uncertainty of the present international situation, Japan needs to be fully aware of its role in the world, move away from a reactive style of diplomacy characterized by dependence on foreign pressure and passivity, and strive to implement a more proactive style of diplomacy in which Japan actively participates in creating a new world order. In order to move toward a desired international environment, Japan must address such issues through a diplomacy based on a firm set of beliefs about how the international environment should be.

i) Characteristics of Current International Affairs

The current state of international affairs is characterized by a mix of conflicting positive and negative elements; the future is very uncertain. Positive aspects include the globalization of the market economy, increasing interdependence and progress in regional economic cooperation. But there are also many unfavorable developments such as the increase of regional and internal conflicts involving race and religion, the tendency of advanced nations to focus inward on domestic issues, increased armament by developing nations and an increase in terrorist activities.

ii) The International Environment around Japan

The characteristic of international affairs described above can also be seen in the international environment around Japan. Positive developments include progress in regional economic cooperation through APEC and ASEAN, the deepening of economic interdependence and the move of socialist countries toward a market economy system. But the negative elements include, most notably, the existence of a socialist nation possessing nuclear weapons and a divided nation. These two sub-regions have been pointed out by foreign opinion leaders as the two most important areas to watch in Asia, and it is a well-known fact that tensions there are rising.

2. During the Cold War, there was a strong tendency for most states to give priority to political and national security issues. But because of Japan's historical experience of defeat in World War II and its economic situation at the time, Japan has kept defense at the minimum necessary level, while relying heavily upon the United States for its national security and giving economic concerns the highest priority in governing the country. For this reason, debate on national security has not focused on the essential issues, but rather has been made into a theological problem, limited to abstract debates on "constitutional reform" and "constitutionality." Those wishing to maintain the present Constitution have been the mainstream and have limited security issues to what is permitted within the constraints of the Consti-

tution, instead of discussing the necessity of security itself. Even though many problems with the Constitution have been pointed out, there has been a tendency to label any mention of reevaluating or amending the Constitution as militaristic.

Although there have been some signs of change in discussions of security issues, there has not been much discussion on how to guarantee Japanese security except among some intellectuals and journalists it is hoped that there will be responsible continued debate in the Diet on this issue.

3. The View from Foreign Opinion Leaders

As was mentioned in the introduction, this study group asked a number of foreign opinion leaders for their thoughts on Japan's national security. Their thoughts are summarized below.

i) The areas which are the greatest security concerns in east Asia are the Korean peninsula and the tension between China, a nuclear power, and Taiwan.

ii) When considering the potential instability resulting from situations in the Korean peninsula and China, the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty is extremely important and must be maintained. This is because U.S.-Japan security is important for peace and stability not only between the United States and Japan, which share common values such as democracy, but also for the Asia Pacific region as a whole.

iii) Japan, with its economic strength, should and is obligated to play a more active role in the international arena, including security areas.

iv) With advanced nations increasingly becoming inward-looking and focusing on domestic issues, both the United States and Japan, especially Japanese leaders, need to demonstrate strong political will. Regarding the relationship between Japan's role in security areas and the Constitution, many felt it was possible for political leaders to use their leadership to reinterpret the Constitution to allow Japan to play a larger role in security areas.

These comments indicate that, from a foreign perspective, Japanese diplomatic efforts in the post-Cold War are insufficient considering its status as an economic superpower, especially on security matters. In domestic discussion Japan's role is debated in terms of "international contribution," but its role is seen as an international obligation, not contribution, in the eyes of people from other countries. This shows that a perception gap exists between Japan and other countries of the world.

III. Some Issues Which Need To Be Resolved

When considering security issues, Japan needs to be fully aware that the maintenance and development of its scope and affluence as the world's second-largest economic power is reliant on the rest of the world. In other words there will be no Japanese prosperity without world peace. Aware of this fact, Japan should consider all the options available and strive to create the most appropriate security system for the current situation. To achieve this, a comprehensive security strategy is needed. Japan should play an active, independent role in global disarmament efforts, including the reduction of nuclear and conventional weapons, and the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

We corporate executives, who are not security experts, cannot create or hold debate on a comprehensive security strategy itself, but what we would like to do here is to make some suggestions for issues that need to be resolved in security at the national, regional, and global levels. These three levels, centering on national security, need to be complementary. Thus Japan should create a collective system which connects us to other countries with similar values.

1. National Security

Regarding security issues at the national level, we hope that discussion on the Constitution by the people of Japan is held as soon as possible. In that discussion, substantive debate on the issue of national security is important. We urgently need to introduce legislation concerning national security. During these discussions, it is important to stand by our ideals and maintain and improve relations with other nations, particularly with the United States, that share those ideals. Japanese people must not underestimate the extremely important role played by the U.S.-Japan security system in our country's peace and prosperity. There is a need to reevaluate the U.S.-Japan security system, and to rectify the imbalance of burden sharing, while recognizing the continued importance of the U.S.-Japan security relationship in the future.

i) Evaluation and Issues of the U.S.-Japan Security System

The U.S.-Japan security system has contributed to the security of Japan and regional stability in Asia. As a result, Japan has been able to concentrate its resources in the economic sector, which is one reason for its remarkable economic growth. But, a number of people are questioning the relevance of the security system in the post-Cold War era and it is important at this time to redefine its purpose. The purpose of the U.S.-Japan security system is threefold: 1) to defend

Japan; 2) to eliminate fears of east Asian countries by preventing Japan from becoming too dominant, and; 3) to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

Last November, the Japanese Cabinet decided on the New Defense Guidelines and a New Mid-term Plan for Defense, which took into account the international environment in the post-Cold War era. These plans form the basis of Japan's national security system and policy. In these plans, the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty remains the core of Japan's defense policy, and the New Defense Guidelines state that, "the security system with the United States is indispensable to Japan's security." In addition, it takes a bolder step than the previous Defense Guidelines in stating that, "if a condition arises in the region surrounding Japan that may seriously threaten Japan's peace and security, we shall respond by offering appropriate support to the activities of the United Nations as necessary, and ensuring the smooth and effective operation of the U.S.-Japan security system in accordance with the Constitution and related laws." The most important unresolved issue is whether Japan can exercise its right of collective self-defense.

The Japanese government has presented the following view regarding its right of collective self-defense: "According to international law, a nation shall have the right of collective self-defense, in other words, the right to repel with force a military attack on a foreign nation with which it has close ties, even if the nation itself is not directly attacked. As a sovereign nation, Japan possesses the right of collective self-defense as stipulated in international law, but the exercise of our right of self-defense under Article 9 of the Constitution is interpreted as the minimum necessary to defend our nation. Because the exercise of the right of collective self-defense goes beyond that interpretation, it is, in our view, not permitted under our present Constitution."

We do, however, hope to maintain and improve our ties with the United States, a country with which we share universal values. As long as both the United States and Japan share a common recognition of their interests in the peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, we believe that the U.S.-Japan security system should be maintained. Therefore, we believe that the time has come for the government to reconsider its interpretation on the exercising of the right of collective self-defense possessed by all countries as stipulated in international law. At the very least, political leaders should have the authority to decide whether it is appropriate to carry out support activities for military operations.

Furthermore, we believe that restrictions stipulated in the three principles on arms exportation should be

relaxed for nations which are Japan's allies and friends, and can be trusted with the use of such arms.

ii) U.S. Forces Stationed in Japan (especially Okinawa)

The rape of a young schoolgirl by U.S. marines in Okinawa Prefecture, where 75 percent of U.S. bases in Japan are located, raised anew the question of the division of the security burden in Japan. The security burden with the United States has taken the form of host nation support, but for the residents of Okinawa, the Japanese central government and Japanese citizens not living in Okinawa have been negligent in their efforts to share the burden.

We believe the issue of military bases in Okinawa should continue to be addressed in order to ensure a fairer distribution of defense burdens within Japan, while keeping in mind the necessity of the bases should Japan's security be threatened.

iii) Self-defense Capability and the Defense Industry

As noted in the New Defense Guidelines, introducing high technology and streamlining are essential to improve the efficiency and mobility of our self-defense capability. The Japanese government should consider means to ensure that Japan is not overly dependent on foreign countries for defense-related supplies, and, at the same time, it needs to come up with a clear vision and direction on the future of the defense industry which involves about 3,000 companies of all sizes. If the government can establish policies to deal with these matters, the defense industry can maintain its technological capabilities and carry out restructuring on its own accord as needed.

2. Regional Security

Japan's security depends on its own self-defense capability and the U.S.-Japan security system. The Asia-Pacific region lacks a collective security system in the strict sense. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is an important framework for promoting mutual understanding of member nations through regional security related exchange of opinions, information and personnel. However, if a military conflict arises in the region, the ARF has no force to act, so in that sense, it is not a full-fledged collective security system.

Although it would be extremely difficult to create a framework for collective security in the Asia-Pacific or even in East Asia in the near future, it is important to consider mechanisms to promote regional security.

3. Global Security

Compared to collective security arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region, the global system of collective security centering around the United Nations is more

formally established. As long as permanent members of the Security Council do not exercise their right to veto, the United Nations can undertake peacekeeping activities or use force against a member nation that has violated the UN Charter.

There is a tendency for Japan to view the United Nations as sacred and its actions as ultimately legitimate. The organization is, however, an aggregate of sovereign nations and its functions are by no means perfect. For example, if a permanent member was involved in a conflict, the United Nations would be powerless to act because that permanent member would undoubtedly use its right to veto any resolutions to which it objected. Thus, one cannot deny that the organization has its limitations, but if these limitations are recognized, the United Nations does serve a purpose. It must be realized that participation in the United Nations is a means that each member nation uses for its own agenda.

Based on the recognition of these facts about the United Nations and an understanding of what it can and cannot do, Japan must participate in the United Nations while considering how to use it for Japan, for the Asia-Pacific and for solving global issues.

Currently, there is a move to reform the United Nations. We hope that substantial progress is made in the reform efforts and that they reflect a diverse set of values.

In addition, if Japan becomes a permanent member of the Security Council, Japan needs to be prepared to pass its own judgment on issues involving sharp conflicts of interest, and be willing to accept the consequences of such decisions. Actions following these decisions must be based on firm beliefs and values in a way that is supported by as many people as possible, not only in Japan but also throughout the world. If the United Nations is going to be one pillar of Japan's diplomacy, this type of awareness and understanding is essential.

IV. Conclusions

There is a great deal of instability in the post-Cold War world. We recognize that in the past, many Japanese have avoided direct discussion of what needs to be done to maintain our ideals, to guarantee the safety of the Japanese people and to ensure world peace and prosperity. Based on this recognition, we compiled this report with the hope that members of Keizai Doyukai, as well as all segments of Japan, will individually and objectively consider security issues for both Japan and the world as a whole.

Security is not composed of only military aspects. If economic problems remain unresolved, then security

problems cannot be solved either. It is, however, unrealistic to consider security issues while ignoring their military dimensions. We are very much aware of the need for Japan to maintain and enhance ties with other nations that share common values, particularly the United States. Japan must endeavor to make the security relationship with the United States a more balanced one. Emphasizing the centrality of the U.S.-Japan security system, Japan should also make constant efforts to use or create a framework for security at the regional and global levels, and strive to eventually coordinate these three levels.

Needless to say, Japan should not choose to become a military superpower and Japan should not take an unrestrained stance on security issues with a military aspect. There is the possibility of harming ourselves or others in the name of protecting ourselves. We must always keep in mind the seriousness of security issues. There are some people who risk getting hurt or dying for the people of other countries and for maintaining the peace and prosperity of the world. Each and everyone of us should not avoid, but rather sincerely accept this solemn truth. We all must ask ourselves what is worth risking human lives to protect.

Based on these ideas, we need to take the initiative in selecting the most appropriate policies and acting on them.

Notes

1. The importance of these global medium- and long-term issues is discussed in Koichi Minaguchi, Chairman, Advisory Board, Nomura Research Institute, Ltd., "Japan's Role in a Global Framework at the Start of the 21st Century: Towards an Age of 'Global Governance'," Keizai Doyukai Committee on the Role of Japan in a New World Order (May, 1995).

2. The universal ideas and values of "liberty, democracy, human rights and peace" are based on "Aiming Towards a New Peace-Promoting Nation," Committee for the Formation of a New National Vision, Chairman: Seiji Tsutsumi, Saison Corporation (July, 1994).

3. Keizai Doyukai has consistently proposed that we corporate executives exercise leadership in order to further the necessary removal and relaxation of government regulations, to promote structural reform and to establish a transparent, open market in Japan. Through the opening of markets, we should work toward economic interdependence and integration which are realistic foundations of peace.

4. This is a summary of the opinions of the following 11 people, and is not necessarily the shared opinions of all individuals. Foreign speakers invited to our study group

were Sir Hugh Cortazzi (former British Ambassador to Japan) and Jusuf Wanandi (Chairman, Supervisory Board, Center for Strategic and International Studies). On October 10 and 11, 1995 in Washington D.C., we heard from the following individuals: Richard Solomon (President, United States Institute of Peace; former U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines; former Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs), Paula Stern (International Trade Advisor, The Stern Group, Inc.; former chairperson, United States International Trade Commission), Richard Armitage (President, Armitage Associates L.C.; former Assistant Secretary of Defense), Mike Mochizuki (Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution), Stephen Rademaker (Chief Counsel, Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives), Steven Solarz (Senior Counsellor APCO Associates; former Representative for New York), Paul Wolfowitz (Dean, The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University; former Undersecretary of Defense; former Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs; former U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia), Joseph S. Nye, Jr. (Assistant Secretary of Defense). A member of the secretariat also interviewed Robert M. Immerman, Senior Research Associate of the East Asian Institute of Columbia University.

Japan: Minister Says BS-4 Satellite May Use Digital Formula

OW1904035596 Tokyo KYODO in English
0232 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — Posts and Telecommunications Minister Ichiro Hino hinted Friday [18 April] the government may switch from an analog to digital formula for Japan's next broadcasting satellite BS-4.

Hino dropped the hint at a press conference when he explained why his ministry put off its decision on the BS-4 broadcasting formula for one year.

"There is a possibility of a policy change depending on the course of future study," he said. "Production plans by manufacturers also are involved."

He referred to plans by domestic television set manufacturers to promote production of analog format high-definition receivers.

The issue has to be discussed in earnest so as not to avoid a policy misjudgment, he said.

Japan: MITI To Study Energy Use, Global Warming Strategy

OW1804124096 Tokyo KYODO in English
1008 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO — The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) plans to study projected energy supply and demand until around 2030 under the terms of an international treaty aimed at preventing global warming, ministry sources said Thursday [18 April].

The sources said the ministry's current long-term energy supply and demand projections cover the period to 2010, but that a framework for action beyond 2010 is already a topic of discussion in international talks on how to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas scientists cite as the main culprit in global warming.

The negotiations are related to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, a United Nations treaty adopted in 1992 and aimed at preventing global warming by limiting emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide.

The Environment Agency has already set up a consultative committee to consider a global warming strategy and the development of technology to deal with the phenomenon, and is holding hearings to solicit opinions from industry.

The MITI sources said the ministry's study will cover not only Japan, but also energy supply and demand mainly in the Asian region, demand for nuclear power and other new sources of energy, and energy-saving technology.

MITI will also study the development of new methods to deal with global warming and ways to transfer technology to developing countries, they said.

One idea being considered is the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions in developing countries through technological and financial cooperation from advanced nations, and the partial accreditation of these reductions to advanced countries through mutually beneficial joint programs.

A subcommittee studying the global environment within the Industrial Structure Council, an advisory body to the trade minister, has the task of investigating global warming strategies, while the Advisory Committee for Energy within the ministry's Agency of Natural Resources and Energy is handling the outlook for long-term energy supply and demand.

The ministry plans to produce a report on the issue within the current year, the sources said.

Japan: Ministry Orders Firms To Name Blood Product Buyers

OW1904035496 Tokyo KYODO in English
0322 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — The Health and Welfare Ministry ordered six drug companies and some 4,400 drug wholesalers across Japan on Friday [18 April] to name the medical institutions to which they sold unheated blood products possibly contaminated with HIV, ministry officials said.

The ministry set the deadlines for filing the report May 10 for the drug companies and May 15 for the wholesalers, the officials said.

The order is intended to investigate the cases of HIV infection among nonhemophiliacs, an issue that recently emerged after the widespread infection of the AIDS-causing virus among hemophiliacs.

So far, only a handful of people who are not hemophiliacs have been confirmed as HIV positive after they were injected with the imported, unheated blood products during medical treatments.

But the ministry is concerned about unidentified HIV infection cases as many people who underwent operations at hospitals do not know they received transfusions of such dangerous products.

After receiving reports from the companies, the ministry will conduct an investigation into hospitals mentioned in their reports, the officials said.

Unheated blood products infected an estimated 2,000 of some 4,500 hemophiliacs in Japan. A group of hemophiliacs in a damages suit over their HIV infection signed a compromise agreement with the government and five drug companies in late March.

Under the terms of the compromise, each victim will receive a lump-sum payment of 45 million yen, while those who have developed AIDS symptoms will also qualify for a monthly payment of 150,000 yen.

Japan: 'White Paper' Urges New Fishery Control System

OW1904023096 Tokyo KYODO in English
0158 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — Japanese fisheries, faced with increasing troubles in border sea areas with China and South Korea, should establish a new fishery control system based on the U.N. Law of the Sea, an annual government report said Friday [19 April].

The fiscal 1995 white paper on fisheries said the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, which came into effect in November 1994, has become the new marine order of the world in both name and reality.

Japan needs to establish its new control system of fisheries based on the U.N. law, so as to maintain stable and sustainable use of its resources, it said.

Japan has finished necessary processes for revising the domestic law and is expected to ratify the U.N. law at the current ordinary Diet session, ending in mid-June.

The white paper notes that one reason Japan needs the new fishery control system is because of the increasing number of fishing boats from China and South Korea that are operating in the border sea areas.

The number of incidents over fishing spots and damage of equipment for Japanese fishermen caused by such foreign boats are increasing. Japanese fishermen's frustration on the current bilateral fisheries agreements with the two neighboring countries is growing, it said.

Another factor for the need of the new control system, the white paper noted, is that maritime resources in Japanese seas is gradually declining, making the annual level of catch decline too.

The paper also said the current trend in the world's fisheries is the strengthening of measures for maintaining resources not only in respective territorial waters but also outside them.

Given such a trend, it said Japan needs to call for an international resource management system for highly migratory species such as tuna.

The white paper was submitted to Friday's cabinet meeting by Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Ichizo Ohara and approved at the cabinet meeting.

North Korea

DPRK: U.S. Military Conservatives Threaten DPRK

SK1804135996 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
0853 GMT 18 Apr 96

[NODONG SINMUN 18 April commentary: "Do Not Touch Our Sovereignty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Among the traits that aggressors possess are shamelessness and brigandishness. Their true nature and style lie in recklessly slandering and picking a quarrel with innocent bystanders and beating them with sticks. The U.S. military conservatives [mi kunbu posuseryok] behave this way. This is proved by the fact that, continuously raising an outcry over a so-

called missile threat from us, they are persistently trying to commit an anti-Republic military adventure.

Mentioning our missile development and deployment, the U.S. military conservatives say this is a direct threat to someone. In short, they are spreading groundless rumors as if we were going to attack someone with missiles. Of course, our so-called missile threat mentioned by the U.S. military conservative quarters [mi kunbu posugyechung] is not a new allegation [nonjo].

As the people of the world know that it is fictitious, we do not intend to argue about it. However, we cannot help but wonder whether [munjesihaji anulsu opta] they are trying to justify their arms buildup and threatening maneuvers in and around South Korea and to ignite the fuse of a new war under the pretext of a nonexistent missile threat from us.

As for the issue of our missiles, it accords with a self-defensive policy. To make efforts for one's personal safety is natural for a human being, as well as for a country and its people who value sovereignty like their lives. Self-defense is our sacred and inviolable right [sinsong pulgachimgwon], a right that no one can take away from us. In particular, to increase our self-defensive capabilities is a serious issue urgently required by today's reality on the Korean Peninsula. [tukhi chawijok kukpangnyogui kanghwanun onurui chosonbando hyonsiri uriege cholbakhage yoguhanun simgakhhan munjeida]

Presently, the threat against our sovereignty and safety is ever-growing. The war equipment, including many U.S. missiles and nuclear weapons, deployed in and around South Korea are aimed at us and are deployed in a high-level combat-resumption posture. [kodoui chontu chaegae sangtae] Because of the United States and the South Korean puppets, the outbreak of a new Korean war has become realistic and is actually drawing nearer moment by moment. [mugukkwa namjosen koeroedure uihae saeroun choson chonjaengui palbari hyonsilsongul ttigo kagilgak nunape taktuhae ogoitta] The outbreak of a ruinous war is a question of time. [pagukchok chonjaengui pokparun sigan munjero toego itta]

We cannot remain helpless with folded arms under this extremely grave situation. Certainly we must take self-defensive measures to cope with the phase of war threatening our national security and socialism, our life and soul.

The position and will of our People's Army and people are to firmly defend the country's security and socialism from any kind of military attack.

There is no basis at all for anyone to have suspicions regarding our self-reliant defense efforts, and no one should distort our sincerity for their convenience.

The U.S. military conservatives are babbling about our missile threat. This is the same as a murderous thief wielding a knife because he is startled by his shadow as he is wrapped up in his own contradictions and persecution mania.

It is the U.S. that poses a missile threat to us. In other words, the United States and we are under relations of an offender and victim.

Recently, the U.S. Defense Department said it would deploy some 40 up-to-date missiles to South Korea. The U.S. military conservatives regard it as just deploying nuclear weapons and missiles in and around South Korea. Their viewpoint is that the United States has infinite freedom to act, but other countries cannot do as such and must obey their burglary demand. This is an expansive delusion of the U.S.-style way of thinking and a foolish attitude in which it views the United States as an international judge and world policeman. The U.S.-style way of thinking cannot work for those of us who regard sovereignty as life.

The position of the U.S. military conservatives regarding the maneuver to arm themselves with nuclear weapons by the South Korean puppets is also very unreasonable. The maneuver by the South Korean puppets to develop nuclear weapons is an international issue, but they are patronizing it by pretending to be ignorant about this matter.

The bellicose U.S. forces are trying to accuse us of being criminals. This is a gangster-like act and vicious challenge toward us. While continuing to develop and produce new nuclear weapons and missiles, deploying them in and around South Korea, and gravely threatening and blackmailing us, the U.S. bellicose class is trying to put the blame on us, the victim. Such acts by the U.S. bellicose class cannot be justified in any way.

Their true intention is to disarm us by finding fault with our missile issue and thus, easily crush [apsal] us. However, this is nothing but a wild dream. It is better not to dream such a wild dream.

We do not like those who provoke a quarrel with us by saying so and so regarding the issue of our sovereignty, and we will by no means tolerate it. The U.S. military conservatives must not recklessly irritate our sovereignty and must stop indiscriminate anti-republic military acts which get on our nerves. [migungbu posuseryogun urui chajugwonul hamburo kondurigi malayahamyo urin! chaguk hanun mubunbyol-

han pangonghwaguk kunsahaengdongul godochiwoyahan]

DPRK: 'Ceaseless' War Maneuvers Against North Denounced

*SK1904040496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0351 GMT 19 Apr 96*

["Ceaseless War Manoeuvres Against North" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets, in league with the U.S. imperialists, staged a joint aerial war exercise for a surprise attack on major targets in the depth areas of the northern half of Korea in the sky above Sangdong, Wonju and Anmyon Islet of South Korea on April 15 and 16, according to military sources.

Involved in the war gamble were more than 1,370 fighter planes of different types of the South Korean puppet air force, the U.S. Seventh Air Force, the U.S. Fifth Air Force and the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

More than 140 fighter planes of the puppet air force and the U.S. Air Force staged a strike exercise for supporting ground units in an exercise for operation of attack on the North in the sky above Sangdong and Phochon areas on April 16 and ten odd helicopters staged an aerial strike and watch reconnaissance aiming at North's targets in the sky above Paju County in the western sector of the front on April 15.

On April 15, 16 and 17, groups of heavy tanks, 155mm and 105mm artillery units of the South Korean puppet army fired hundreds of shells at random toward the forefront areas from Paju, Yonchon and Chorwon Counties.

DPRK Paper Cited on U.S. Bill for Missile Defense System

*SK1904042196 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0404 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — The United States' Republican Party has been working out a new bill for a "National Missile Defense System," alleging that the intercepting missile defense treaty the United States concluded with the Soviet Union is outdated.

NODONG SINMUN today says the Republican Party's move for working out the bill is another SOS call for fresh arms race.

In a commentary the daily says:

The Republicans are claiming that the bill is aimed at "defense" from other's "attack." But it is nonsense. The establishment of a new missile system is necessary for attacking others.

The bill will not only destroy the strategic equilibrium between Russia and the United States but gravely affect the general situation of the world including the Asia-Pacific Region.

Russia has stated that if a national missile defense system is set up in the United States, it will lift all the restrictions stipulated in the intercepting missile defense treaty now in effect.

If the Republicans persistently seek killing the treaty, it will cause another round of arms race between Russia and the United States. Then, the Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction Treaty will come to naught.

The misguided thought of the Republican Party will result only in destroying the order of the world peace and giving rise to another cold war.

Arms buildup and military confrontation will bring nothing good to the United States, either.

The hardline conservatives of the Republican Party would be well advised to ponder over what their reckless military moves will cause.

DPRK Article Warns of Imperialists' Localized War Strategy

962C0045A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN
in Korean 2 Feb 96 p 6

[Article by Choe Song-kuk: "The Dangerous Nature of the Imperialists' Localized Military Strategy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When the end of the Cold War was announced, people welcomed the news with the hope that the vestiges of the Cold War would be liquidated in various parts of the world, bringing about positive changes in the development of international relations. However, the post-Cold War international situation disappointed them much and caused still more anxiety to them. Despite the end of the Cold War, there have been complex and acute problems in various parts of the world as serious conflicts developed, as peace and security were undermined and disturbed, and as tragic disasters piled up. In other words, a new wave of cold war fraught with new dangers is rising. This state of affairs, importantly, has something to do with the fact that even after the cold war ended, the imperialists continued to unflaggingly pursue their reactionary policy designed to fulfill their sinister aggressive and hegemonic ambition.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows: "The Cold War structure generated by the rivalry between the superpowers has crumbled, but the old forces of imperialism remain intact, continuing to seek their ambition for world domination as before.

Although the Cold War ended after impeding the development of international relations, the aggressive nature and hegemonic policy of the imperialists remain unchanged. They are swaggering all the more, admiring themselves as the "victor" in the Cold War. They are openly maneuvering to strengthen their military advantages, and on this basis to reign as the sole ruler of the world. In this maneuvering, they are moving forward implementing a new, aggressive localized military strategy.

In the wakes of the termination of the confrontational relations between the superpowers and the collapse of socialism in various countries, the imperialists introduced a number of changes in the direction of their aggressive foreign policy. As is known, the imperialists' erstwhile basic policy was anti-Soviet Union and confrontation against communism. When World War II was over, they proclaimed the Cold War and had pursued throughout the Cold War period the policy of holding the socialist forces, including the Soviet Union, then superpower, in check and gaining supremacy over them as the main target.

However, with the collapse of the Cold War structure, the imperialists have modified their aggressive strategy. They established a new strategy with emphasis on "localized pacification." The French magazine (JUN AFRIC—phonetic) said that after the Cold War ended, U.S. international strategy shifted from confrontation with the Soviet Union to direct and indirect intervention in local conflicts.

The new localized military policy of the imperialists is none other than one of aggression and intervention. It forms the basic link in their reactionary world strategy. Its principal goal is to prevent the emergence of regional powers capable of challenging them, bring "potential regional menaces" under control, and establish hegemony over regions of military strategic importance. This goal is revealed sufficiently by the fact alone that the United States has decided to make "selective intervention," with a view to preventing "dangerous adversaries" from emerging and deal a blow to countries threatening or encroaching upon their "economic and strategic interests." By "selective intervention" as adopted by the United States is meant in essence the method of "pacifying" individual regions or countries one by one in

conformity with the purpose of establishing their hegemony.

In fact, the imperialists have precisely been doing that since the Cold War ended. In brief, they have been using the method of "wiping out" their targets one by one. This method is aimed at achieving their purpose easily by intensifying a concentrated attack on a selected target one at a time, without dispersing their strength. The imperialists are actually boasting of the supremacy of their strength, but they are not as strong as they claim. They are not capable enough to make an armed intervention or wage a war in different parts of the world at the same time. The strength of the imperialists has not increased, but is in fact waning with each passing day. The end of the Cold War meant the bankruptcy of the power game played by the superpowers. Imperialism is indulging in bravado and bluster, but in reality, they are on the decline daily.

To the contrary, the world's anti-imperialist forces are incessantly strengthening and developing.

The imperialists cannot brandish their truncheon at will as they used to because the strength of the world's anti-imperialist forces have increased whereas that of the imperialists has weakened correspondingly. That is why the imperialists are resorting to the method of waging "successive warfare of attrition."

Another reason the imperialists are using this method has something to do with the fact that there have been no military rivals any more since the Cold War ended. During the Cold War, they had to put efforts into countering the influence of the Soviet Union, then a superpower, in various parts of the world. Under this condition, they could not concentrate their strength in one specific region. But now things have changed. In the absence of military rivals, the imperialists are waging "successive warfare of attrition" freely. This is where the peculiarity and dangerous nature of the imperialists' localized military strategy lie.

The imperialists' localized military strategy is none other than the strategy of power. They are strengthening their forward-deployment strategy and their capability of military mobility under the pretext of coping with regional "conflicts" and "crises." In addition, the imperialists are openly making armed interventions and wars in various parts of the world under the pretext of dealing with regional conflicts and crises they themselves have aggravated. The primary methods used by the imperialists in this connection are collective intervention and collective use of force. The Gulf War is a typical example. This war marked the first collective use of force made by the imperialist allied forces since the end of the Cold War, in pursuance to the localized military strategy

of the imperialists. A large contingent of multinational armed forces led by the United States launched a collective assault on Iraq branding it as a "regional menace" and "defeated" it, thereby strengthening their power and influence in that region. The United States, in particular, has continued to deploy large forward-deployment forces in the Gulf region in search of military control and domination since the end of the Gulf War.

NATO's military intervention in developing countries in the Balkans is a case of the use of force by the imperialists. It was due to the imperialists' backing and interference that the largest-scale military conflict since the end of World War II broke out in the Balkans with its potential danger of escalating into a major war. The imperialists are making a collective armed intervention in that region in order to establish their military control and hegemony by shutting out the Russian influence and power. This intervention has something to do with their search for ways to expand NATO into East Europe and the current deployment of a large-scale NATO-led "multinational peace-keeping force" in the Balkans.

The collective use of force by the imperialists is aimed at justifying their military action and softening international censure and condemnation against it.

The imperialists resort to force when they find a regional crisis or dispute in conflict with their interests, but when they see no conflict of interests, they try to fish in the troubled waters by fanning the fire from behind. However, in regions in which they have a vital economic interest, they seek "stability." The "stabilization" policy they are pursuing in the Middle East, the lifeline of their petrol supply, is a case in point.

Nevertheless, no doubt the primary means of the imperialists' localized military strategy is intervention by force. Analysts say that there was a use of military force by the imperialists in the Gulf region yesterday, and another use of force is taking place in the Balkans today, and the next turn will be the Korean Peninsula. The ominous moves of the imperialists point to that possibility. It is no accident that the imperialists are raving about the need to use the same kind of force they used in the Gulf War in order to remove what they call the "danger of regional aggression" from the Korean Peninsula. Their new military buildup and war provocation maneuvers in South Korea and its surrounding areas; their stepped up efforts to forge the United States, Japan, and South Korea together into a triangular military alliance; and multinational military exercises under the simulated "contingency" on the Korean Peninsula and in the Far East are all in accordance with the imperialists' new Korean War scenario. This objective fact gives credence to analysts' prediction that the Korean

Peninsula will become another scene of armed intervention for the implementation of the imperialists' localized military strategy. Should a new war touched off on the Korean Peninsula by the imperialists, it would entail an unpredictable catastrophe. In that event, the war incendiaries will be held wholly accountable.

The world's people should give the imperialist forces no excuse for aggression and intervention and wage a resolute struggle against the imperialists' localized military strategy.

DPRK: Soviet Women: U.S. 'Must Take Hands Off Korea'

SK1904112196 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0744 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — The Congress of Soviet Women made public a statement on April 9 denouncing the new war provocation manoeuvres of the United States and the South Korean puppets. The title of statement was "Take Hands Off Socialist Korea".

The statement said that the United States and other imperialist forces are launching the anti-DPRK smear campaign through venal mass media, which is aimed at igniting a war against an independent and sovereign state which is an invincible fortress.

The imperialists are trying to remove Korea, a paragon of viable socialism where all the people are united and leading a happy life, while regarding it as a thorn in the flesh, but the crafty moves of the United States and the South Korean criminal group will be doomed to ruin, the statement said, and noted:

"The imperialist grabbers must clearly see that if they provoke a war, they will face a strong counterattack of all the honest-minded and sound forces all over the world, including the DPRK."

It demanded the United States take hands off Korea.

DPRK: Kim Chung-nin at Ceremony Marking 1960 Uprising

SK1904000596 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0955 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA) — A meeting was held here today to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the April 19 uprising of the South Korean people.

The April 19 popular uprising was an anti-U.S., anti-fascist resistance of South Korean students and people for independent and democratic new politics, new system and new life.

The uprising, which began with the struggle of Masan citizens against the "March 15 fraudulent election" of the puppets, spread almost all over South Korea.

The uprising toppled the Syngman Rhee puppet regime.

Choe Yong-hae, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Kim Il-song Socialist Youth League, in his report said that the April popular uprising dealt a heavy blow at the colonial repressive rule of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys over South Korea and gave to the South Korean students and people the conviction that if they unite to fight against the oppressors, they can smash any stronghold of colonial fascism and win victory.

Although the puppet rulers have been changed several times in South Korea since the April popular uprising, all of them have kept the colonial fascist system with the backing of the outside forces, the reporter said.

He noted that the Kim Yong-sam clique are cracking down upon the struggle of South Korean students and people by force of arms and more viciously intensifying the anti-DPRK campaign for confrontation in reliance on the outside forces.

The South Korean warmaniacs should clearly know that if they misjudge our patience and ignite a war, they will be entombed by our revolutionary Armed Forces each of whose members is a match for a hundred foes and by the invincible might of our people united around the party as firm as an iron-wall, the reporter stressed.

The meeting was attended by Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and other officials concerned, working people and students.

DPRK Papers Urge Reunification Through Nationwide Struggle

SK1904043196 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0409 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — Papers here today dedicate editorials to the 36th anniversary of the heroic April popular uprising of the South Korean people.

NODONG SINMUN describes the April popular uprising in 1960 as an eruption of the pent-up grudge and resentment of the South Korean people against the colonial fascist rule and a massive uprising against Americans and fascists.

The uprising gave a heavy blow to the colonial fascist rule of the foreign aggressors and their stooges and marked an occasion of a new turn in the struggle of the South Korean students and people for freedom.

The aspiration of the uprisers for new politics, new system and new life with no outside forces and traitors has not yet been realized, the paper says, and continues: To materialize the uprisers' aspiration, the South Korean people should topple the traitorous Kim Yong-sam group who are engrossed in irregularities and frauds, pursuing treachery, fascism, confrontation and division.

They should lift higher the anti-Kim Yong-sam and anti- "New Korea Party" flag and wage a more valiant struggle until they smash the stronghold of the fascist dictatorship as the April popular uprisers did.

To establish the national sovereignty in South Korea and achieve the country's peaceful reunification is the unanimous demand and will of all the nation as well as the aspiration of the April popular uprisers.

Entire fellow countrymen should turn out as one in the nationwide struggle to shatter the obstructive moves of the separatists and achieve the country's reunification by dint of great national unity.

The present situation of South Korea is calling for the second April 19 popular uprising, MINJU CHOSON said, calling upon the students and people of South Korea to turn out as one to repeal such all fascist evil laws as the "national security law", dismantle fascist repressive organs such as the "Agency for National Security Planning" and mercilessly overthrow the Kim Yong-sam group.

DPRK Papers on Kim Yong-sam Group's 'Rigged' Election

*SK1904041896 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0400 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — The secretary general of the traitor Kim Yong-sam's "New Korea Party" (NKP) said the "election law" offences should be thoroughly investigated and "strictly dealt with by law." This comes under fire in papers here today.

In a commentary NODONG SINMUN says the Kim Yong-sam group, which rigged its candidates' "returns" in the "election" by means of coercion and money, is now threatening to "strictly deal with the election offenders." It is really the height of shamelessness and sarcasm, the daily says, and continues:

By doing so, they intend to cover up their "election" rigging, threaten or sway opposition and independent "assemblymen" to their side by charging them with "election" offences, and get a majority in the "National Assembly."

The traitor Kim is the kingpin of corruption who won the 1992 "presidential election" with the backing of money. So, it is natural that his servants followed his misdeeds and the "NKP" has remained a corrupt party.

Meanwhile, the newspaper MINJU CHOSON says the South Korean people have nothing to expect not only from the "NKP" but from the 15th "National Assembly" made up for the most part of those who were returned in the "election" by vote rigging.

DPRK: South Koreans 'Completely Fascinated' by Kim Personality

*SK1904111996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0751 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — South Koreans from all walks of life increasingly revere the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the Seoul-based Radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

Yim Song-chin, a company clerk in Pusanjin District, Pusan City, told his colleagues he was deeply impressed by what the crewmen of the DPRK fishing boat "J-SO 6052" did in a critical condition while drifting in a windstorm.

"The people in the North regard General Kim Chong-il as their moral support and wholly entrust him with their destiny because they are completely fascinated by his personality," the company clerk said. "He feels the happiest when he sees the people feel happy and devotedly works for them all his life. The noble spiritual world of the northern fishermen full of confidence convinced me more deeply that we 70 million Koreans should live under the care of General Kim Chong-il."

Prof. Choe of Korea University told a seminar on "Chuche Idea and Leader Kim Chong-il" organised by the members of the Independent Philosophy Society in Seoul:

"I have read most of celebrated writings of world-famous thinkers. I think none of them can match the leader Kim Chong-il's writing 'On the Chuche Idea,' which I think is the most celebrated of writings and masterpieces."

Kim Chol-min, vice-chairman of the society, described "On the Chuche Idea" as a textbook in life for people in the present time. He praised the leader Kim Chong-il as a man of passion and vigor who seeks justice in reality with extraordinary ideological-theoretical qualities.

Cho Pyong-sop, a member of the society, said: "We should more deeply study the profound philosophical idea and revolutionary theories set forth in his writing

so that our society may discharge its mission and role as a fresh ideology study group of the revolutionary movement in South Korea."

DPRK Foreign Ministry Criticizes Israeli Attack on Lebanon

*SK1904102496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0944 GMT 19 Apr 96*

["Foreign Ministry Spokesman Criticises Israeli Attack on Lebanon" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea answered a question put by KCNA on Thursday concerning the recent intensive Israeli bombing and shelling on Lebanon including Beirut and southern Lebanon.

He told KCNA:

We are watching with deep apprehensions the tensions escalating in Lebanon in the wake of recent Israeli military attack.

Israel's military action caused the killing of many innocent citizens and heavy losses of property in Lebanon.

This can never be justified as it is a grave infringement on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

Israel must immediately stop violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and doing harmful acts to the Mideast peace process and withdraw from the occupied Arab lands without delay.

DPRK: Foreign Ministry Reviews Russian Delegation's Visit

*SK1804105796 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1004 GMT 18 Apr 96*

["Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Russian Government Delegation's Visit to Korea" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA) — The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea mentioned the recent Korea visit of the Russian Government delegation in an interview with KCNA today.

He told KCNA:

As already reported, the first meeting of the DPRK-Russian Intergovernmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology was successfully held in Pyongyang from April 10 to 12.

The meeting focused on further expanding and developing bilateral relations of economic cooperation. In the wake of the first meeting, a protocol on developing ex-

change and cooperation in trade, light industry, forestry, mining industry, science, technology and other fields was signed.

During the visit of the delegation, vice foreign ministers of the two countries held political negotiations. At the negotiation, the sides confirmed each other's willingness to expand and develop the DPRK-Russian relations on a fresh basis and had sincere discussions on the practical ways. They exchanged views on the matters of relaxing the tensions and establishing a peace-keeping mechanism on the Korean Peninsula. The DPRK side informed the Russian side of the cause of the aggravation of tensions on this peninsula and the principled position to relax the tensions, while the Russian side paid attention to it.

The recent Korea visit of the Russian Government delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Ignatenko was an important occasion in promoting bilateral understanding and expanding and developing bilateral relations in various fields.

DPRK Meeting Commemorates 35th Anniversary of Cuban Victory

*SK1904040896 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0348 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — A meeting took place in Pyongyang on April 18 on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban people in the Playa Giron Battle.

Present on invitation were Cuban Ambassador to Korea Jose Ramon Rodriguez Varona and embassy officials.

Speeches were exchanged at the meeting.

DPRK: International Groups Support UNHRC Report on Comfort Women

*SK1904113396 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0817 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — Delegates of the non-governmental organisations who participated in the 52nd meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights [UNHRC], which was held in Geneva on April 8, held a meeting, at which they organized an international federation for supporting the report of a special rapporteur on the "wartime sex slavery system".

The international federation held a press conference on April 9, informed it of its inauguration and made public a statement.

The statement said:

"The Japanese Government is trying to abate the issue related to wartime violation of women. Japan set up 'the Asia Peace National Fund for Women' to evade its moral and lawful responsibility.

"We will support the report of a special rapporteur on the 'wartime sex slavery system' and conduct the activities for urging the Japanese Government to discontinue protest against the report of the special rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights and to join in the international efforts to defend the rights and dignity of the women."

The statement called upon the non-governmental organisations, international organisations and individuals to turn out in the movement for justice demanded by women victims of "wartime sex slavery system".

The international federation includes the Measure Committee for Compensation of "Comfort Women for the Army" and Pacific War Victims, the Group of Investigation Into the Truth of Korean Draftees, the Data Centre on Japan's Responsibility for War, the Philippine Committee for Investigating "Comfort Women" and 16 other organisations.

DPRK: Women's Union Delegation Leaves for China Visit

*SK1804230296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1021 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Korean Democratic Women's Union led by vice-chairperson of its Central Committee Han Kye-ok left here today for a visit to China.

The first friendship visiting group of China led by Liang Mingde, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Guizhou Provincial People's Congress, arrived here today.

DPRK Vice-Premier Kim Pok-sin Meets Mongolian Delegation

*SK1804230496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1000 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA) — Kim Pok-sin, vice-premier of the Administration Council, today met and had a friendly talk with the visiting group of the Mongolia-Korea Friendship Society for commemorating April 15 led by J. Tsevelma at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

The head of the group said they have the great honor to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song together with the Korean people.

Noting that the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song devoted his whole life to the people, the head of the group said he is immortal in the hearts of the humankind.

The Korean people are making great success in socialist construction under the wise guidance of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the head of the group said, adding that positive efforts will be made for the development of friendly relations between Mongolia and Korea and support and solidarity be extended to the Korean people's struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of their country.

DPRK: Friendship Gathering With Mongolians Held 18 Apr

*SK1904043296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0357 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — A friendship gathering with Mongolian friends took place here on April 18.

Present on invitation there were the visiting group of the Mongolia-Korea Friendship Society for commemorating April 15 led by J. Tsevelmaa, members of the Mongolian art troupe and Mongolian circus group who participated in the 14th April spring friendship art festival and Mongolian ambassador to Korea D. Byambaa and embassy officials.

Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairperson of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and vice-chairperson of the Korea-Mongolia Friendship Association, officials concerned and students in the city were present.

DPRK: Moldovan Party Delegation Ends Korea Visit

*SK1804230596 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0958 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA) — The delegation of the Communist Party of the Moldovan Republic led by First Secretary V.N. Voronin left here today after winding up its 13-day visit to Korea.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

During its stay, the delegation visited historic Mangyongdae and inspected the Party Founding Museum, the International Friendship Exhibition, the Grand People's Study House, the Korean Film Studio, the Mansudae Art Studio and Panmunjom.

The delegation appreciated an acrobatic performance of the Pyongyang circus.

DPRK Government Economic Delegation Leaves for Nigeria

*SK1804230996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0956 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA) — A government economic delegation of the DPRK led by Kwak Pom-ki, minister of Machine-Building Industry, left here today for Nigeria.

DPRK: Hwang Chang-yop Meets With Pakistani Party Delegation

*SK1904043096 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0347 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) Central Committee Hwang Chang-yop met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the Sind Provincial Committee of the People's Party of Pakistan led by Secretary Shamin N.D. Khan [name as received], at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on Thursday.

The head of the delegation said on the occasion:

"His Excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song had devoted his whole life to the prosperity of Korea and the happiness of the people.

"Under his wise leadership, the Korean people scored big achievements in socialist construction."

"The Pakistani people," he said, "hardly repressed the sorrow over the death of President Kim Il-song." "The president created the great idea and performed great feats for the fatherland and the nation."

Noting His Excellency the respected leader President Kim Il-song is immortal, he said: "The Korean people are blessed with the leader as they hold His Excellency dear Kim Chong-il in high esteem as the great leader."

DPRK: Kim Kwang-chin, Others Attend Iranian Army Reception

*SK1904043896 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0353 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — Ali Asghar Ghasemi [spelling of name as received], military attache of the Iranian Embassy here, gave a reception on April 18 on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the day of army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Invited to the reception were Kim Kwang-chin, first vice-minister of the people's Armed Forces, generals

and officers of the Korean People's Army, foreign diplomatic envoys and military attaches of foreign embassies here.

Iranian Ambassador Seyyed Morteza Mirheydari and embassy officials were present.

Speeches were exchanged at the reception.

DPRK Meeting Held To Welcome Brazilian Political Group

*SK1904043996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0355 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — A meeting was held here on April 18 on the sponsorship of the Korea-Brazil Association of Friendship and Culture to welcome a delegation of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil led by a member of its Central Committee, Marcia Campos, on a visit to Korea.

Present there were Yang Tal-chu, vice-chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and chairman of the Korea-Brazil Association of Friendship and Culture, officials concerned and working people in the city.

Speeches were exchanged at the meeting.

DPRK: Foreigners Pay Respects to Kim Il-song at Kumsusan Palace

*SK1904035496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0341 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — Visiting foreigners paid homage to the great leader President Kim Il-song on April 18 at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace where he lies in state.

Among them were officials of the Workers' Party of Mexico, the delegation of the Museum of the Chinese Revolution, the President of the U.S. Benevolent Brotherhood Foundation, James Jackson, and his companion, the delegation of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the delegation of the General Trade Union for Building and Wood Industries Workers of Egypt.

The visitors made entries in the visitor's book.

Jose Luis Lopez, member of the National Political Committee of the Workers' Party of Mexico, wrote that the great activities of Comrade Kim Il-song serve as a precious model for all people striving for the happiest life of the mankind.

James Jackson wrote that the great leader President Kim Il-song is respected as a recognized genuine leader for

the enormous achievements he made with his warm love for the people in his lifetime.

Jose Artur Lopez, chief of the Mexico city committee of the Workers' Party of Mexico, wrote that Comrade Kim Il-song, a great revolutionary, had taught them how to struggle against the exploitation of man by man.

Abdel Aziz Abdel Hamidmi Mahmud [spelling of name as received], first vice-chairman of the General Trade Union for Building and Wood Industries Workers of Egypt, wrote that the August name of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will be kept forever in the hearts of humankind for his great immortal revolutionary spirit.

DPRK: LAJI Chairman Awarded International Kim Il-song Prize

SK1304040496 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0307 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — The International Kim Il-song Prize Council decided to award the prize to Jose Francisco Aguilar Bulgarelli [spelling of name as received], chairman of the Latin American Institute of the Chuche Idea (LAJI), on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

DPRK: Kim Il-song's Works Vol. 43 Published

SK1304092696 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0806 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — The Workers' Party of Korea publishing house recently brought out Kim Il-song's Works Vol. 43, an encyclopedia of the chuche idea which comprehensively records immortal famous works of the great leader President Kim Il-song in chronological order on the occasion of his birth anniversary (April 15).

The book contains 36 historic works published by President Kim Il-song from January 1991 to October 1992.

Expounded in the works are questions of correctly putting forward the successor to the position and role of the leader in implementing the cause of socialism, principles arising in strengthening the party and increasing its leading role, revolutionary policies and ways of successfully carrying out the socialist cause, tasks of further increasing the nation's defence capabilities, fair and realistic proposals and ways of the Workers' Party of Korea for reunification and revolutionary ideas and policies, strategies and tactics to make the whole world independent.

Also comprehensively consummated in the works are outstanding ideas, theories and policies which give an-

swers to theoretical and practical problems arising in the revolution and construction and valuable achievements and experience accumulated in the struggle to put them into practice including tasks of socialist economic construction and ways for their implementation, questions of firmly establishing chuche in the building of socialist national culture and creating and developing true revolutionary and popular culture and problems of further strengthening the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and more extensively conducting the patriotic work for the country and the nation among the Korean residents in Japan.

DPRK: Report on Flowers, Tree Planting in Mangyongdae

SK1304054496 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0528 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — Mangyongdae, the cradle of the revolution, is replete with ardent feelings of the Korean people, who are willing to always remain unfailingly loyal and devoted to the great leader President Kim Il-song.

From all parts of the country, many people have come to Mangyongdae, where the president was born, and planted and tended beautiful, rare flowers and trees with utmost care every day, prompted by their purest loyalty and filial duty.

According to data available at the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Museum, the flowers and trees which have been planted around his old home and in other extensive areas of the Mangyongdae revolutionary site by people from all walks of life from the beginning of this year total more than 106,400 of about 40 kinds.

Of them more than 93,500 flowers of nine kinds are lily of the valley and hyosong flower.

Meanwhile, many people have sent materials to Mangyongdae to keep the place more beautiful. From the beginning of this year, over 44,000 pieces of some 50 kinds have been sent to Mangyongdae.

DPRK: School Youth, Children Visit Mangyongdae Revolutionary Site

SK1304052596 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0514 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — A movement to visit the great leader President Kim Il-song's old home in Mangyongdae is briskly conducted by school youth and children from all parts of the country on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

School youth and children visited the old home in Mangyongdae, Pyongyang, on April 12 with due ceremony.

Among them were Model League officials and members and Children's Union members from Pyongyang and local areas.

The marchers to the old home in Mangyongdae laid floral baskets and made a bow before the statue of President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill.

Then they headed for Mangyongdae, the time-honored, holy land of revolution.

In Mangyongdae the marchers saw with keen interest the mementoes preserved with utmost care at the old home, making a deep-going study of the glorious revolutionary history and imperishable revolutionary feats of President Kim Il-song, who had lofty intention to make revolution in his childhood, embarked upon the road of revolution in his early years and devoted his all to the restoration of the country, its prosperity and the freedom and happiness of the people.

They also visited the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Museum and revolutionary sites.

DPRK: Youth, Students Give Art Performances

*SK1604053696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0420 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — An art performance of youth and students in Pyongyang for song of loyalty took place on Monday evening to commemorate the 84th birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Put on the stage were a song and dance "Song of Mangyongdae", a female vocal solo and chorus "Thank You, Generalissimo Kim Il-song", a mixed group singing and chorus "The Leader Is Always With Us", a group singing and chorus "We Will defend the Headquarters of Revolution With Our Lives" and other numbers.

The performers loudly sang of the undying feats of President Kim Il-song, who steadily strengthened and developed the Korean youth movement with rare wisdom and outstanding leadership ability, and of the great happiness of the younger generations who have grown, studying to their heart's content under his deep trust and love.

The performance powerfully demonstrated the faith in certain victory and the revolutionary stamina of the young vanguard determined to reunify the country and accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche, more closely rallied around the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, holding the great President Kim Il-song in

high esteem as the eternal leader of the Workers' Party and people of Korea and as the sun of chuche.

DPRK: Kim Il-song's 10-Point Program Reported by Foreign Media

*SK1904035696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0344 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[Spelling of newspapers as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — The full text of "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country", a famous work of the great leader President Kim Il-song, was carried by the Madagascan paper IMONGO VAOVAO.

The paper in the preface said that "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" published by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song comprehensively indicates the general target, ideological basis and principles and way for the great unity of the Korean nation and the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea. The programme, which is very comprehensive, fair and aboveboard, realistic, patriotic and peace-loving, has evoked full support and sympathy from the Korean nation and people all over the world who love justice and peace since the work was published.

The work was reported by the Iranian paper KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, the Nepalese paper BARDALY WEEKLY, the Czech paper HALO NOVINY and radio Cambodia and Radio F.M. 90 of Cambodia.

DPRK: PRC Group Lays Basket Before Kim Il-song's Statue

*SK1904041996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0352 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — The first friendship visiting group of China led by Liang Mingde, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Guizhou Provincial People's Congress, laid a floral basket before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill on April 18 and made a bow.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il, Others Inspect Great Yongmun Cave

*SK1804232996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
2110 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il inspected the Great Yongmun Cavern, which was newly discovered and arranged.

He was accompanied by Kye Ung-tae, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK); Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Kim Ki-nam and Kim Yong-sun, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; and officials concerned.

The Great Yongmun Cavern was newly discovered and excellently arranged thanks to the party's policy of nature conservation; it is situated in Mt. Yongmun, some 12 kilometres away from the township of Kujang County, North Phyongan Province.

A natural cavern of multifarious wonders caused by limestone water through dissolution and corrosion for tens of millions of years, the Great Yongmun Cavern consists of two principal caves and some 30 branch caves where there are some 20 charming and mysterious scenes made up of stalagmites and stalactites including "Tower of Rich Harvest", "Lake Chonsan", "Paekhwadong" (a hundred flowers), "Pokphodong" (waterfalls) and "Kumganggung".

They remind people of an underground palace.

In the Great Yongmun Cavern, one can see in a small section marvellous shapes and formations which are majestic and splendid, elegant and beautiful. So, it is a cave rare in the world.

With the discovery and arrangement of the cavern, the socialist homeland now has one more valuable cultural treasure needed for a rich and diversified entertainment of the people.

After inspecting the cavern, Comrade Kim Chong-il expressed deep satisfaction over the fact that party members and working people, who took part in the discovery and arrangement of the cavern, finished the vast project in a short span of time and turned it into an excellent tourist resort with ardent patriotism, bearing deep in their hearts the teachings of the great leader President Kim Il-song on building up the cavern well, and extended thanks to them.

He said that the Great Yongmun Cavern is the most beautiful and elegant scenic spot in the world. "In the era of the Workers' Party, we discovered one more cultural treasure we can be proud of before the world for the sake of the people," he added.

He said: "Our country with brilliant culture and history are blessed not only with abundant natural resources but with many scenic spots envied by the world people. Our people feel very proud of living an independent, creative life in this beautiful country."

He also said only when one knows well about one's own country, will one value and love the country, aware of

its beauty. He then stressed the need to widely introduce and propagandize the cavern and let many people visit it so that the people may feel greater national pride in living and working in the homeland of chuche, a country with beautiful and rich nature.

The cavern, which is a valuable treasure of the nation to be handed down through generations, should always be preserved with deep concern, he said.

As it will be visited by many local and foreign peoples, he noted, the cavern should be kept more beautiful, fully equipped with facilities necessary for tourism. Then, he gave detailed tasks to this end.

DPRK: Foreign Acrobats Perform at Pyongyang Spring Festival

*SK1204135796 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0840 GMT 12 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Foreign acrobats continue performing here in the framework of the 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

Their performances fully mirror their deep reverence for the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Mongolian girls' "Twin Plastic Etude" based on national rhythm and wonderful plastic movements won applause when they put up a placard reading "His Excellency the Great Leader Kim Il-song Will Be Alive Forever."

Kazakh magicians had six large balls and a flag of the Workers' Party of Korea coming out of a round box.

An Italian skillfully performed "Hand Feats," representing the optimistic life of the people.

Also successful were an Egyptian's "Standing on End With Chairs", a Canadian's "Bicycle Etude" and Cuban acrobats' "Somersault."

Bulgarians performed "men handling fire" vividly showing the inexhaustible strength and courage of human beings in transforming nature.

A Slovak magician performed such jugglery as playing with fire and having a woman floating in the air.

The audience gave a big hand to the performers when they successfully performed high-standard feats and wonderful and difficult movements.

DPRK: Report on 13 Apr Performances of Friendship Festival

*SK1304052696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0511 GMT 13 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — Separate and group performances of the 14th April

Spring Friendship Art festival, which is taking place here with a large attendance, ended on Friday [12 April].

A large number of famous actors and actresses including international and national prize winners took part in the total of 40 odd performances at eleven theatres in Pyongyang. Put on the stages were songs, dances, instrumental music, circus and other colorful numbers.

Songs highly praising the great leader President Kim Il-song, who performed undying feats for the times and humanity, were sung on the stages.

Typical of them were "The Great Leader", "The Whole World Pays Respect", "Joy of April", "The Leader's Bright Smile Will Remain Forever" and "We Will Hold Him in High Esteem For All Ages" created by the festival participants, which vividly showed the world people's deep reverence for President Kim Il-song.

Also put on the stages were "Paean to the Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il" and art pieces representing the deep reverence and best wishes for the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Also performed were traditional pieces of different countries showing the aspiration and desire of peoples to lead a happy life in a new peaceful world free from domination and subjugation with the idea of independence, peace and friendship, and their customs of life.

The festival will continue in the form of a joint performance of artistes from different countries.

DPRK: Art Festival Participants Lay Flowers at Kim Il-song Statue

*SK1604050996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0356 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — Foreign and overseas Korean artistes participating in the 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival laid floral baskets and made bows before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill on April 15, his birth anniversary.

Present there were Vice-premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol and members of the festival organising committee.

Written on the ribbons hanging from the baskets were letters reading: "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will be immortal".

DPRK: Apr Festival Participants Thank Kim Chong-il

*SK1804043796 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0344 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il Wednesday received a letter of thanks from the participants in the 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

The letter says that the festival was a significant one in which the artistes from different countries sang beautiful songs of independence, peace and friendship, reflecting their reverence for the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The festival participants were deeply moved by the fact that His Excellency the respected Kim Chong-il is creditably carrying forward the cause of President Kim Il-song and is leading the socialist cause with unparalleled grit and experienced guidance, unaffected by the complex international political situation, the letter notes, and goes on:

"During our visit to Korea we gained great conviction and encouragement from indomitable struggle of all the Korean people, who live and work in a revolutionary way, firmly united around Your Excellency Kim Chong-il, true to the behests of the great President Kim Il-song, and learned, in particular, that the Korean literature and art are successfully developing under your tender leadership.

"We, who value the common idea of independence, peace and friendship, will actively support and encourage the Korean people in their just struggle for the independent reunification of Korea and victory of the socialist cause.

"We pray for His Excellency the great President Kim Il-song's immortality and sincerely wish Your Excellency Kim Chong-il a long life in good health."

DPRK: Prizes Awarded to Art Troupes in Spring Friendship Festival

*SK1704090496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0845 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA) — Prizes were awarded to art organisations and artistes of different countries, who showed excellent artistic ability and talents at the 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival, which was grandly held in Pyongyang from April 7 to 17.

Prizes of the April Spring Friendship Art Festival (honorary certificates and cups) were awarded to the Chinese art troupe, the Siberian dance troupe of Russia

named after Mikhail Gozenko, the Cuban art troupe, the Mongolian art troupe and the Ukrainian folk dance troupe.

Special prizes were conferred upon Mitsuko Ogasawara, head of the delegation of the Japan-Korea Music and Art Interchange Society, Yuan Chenye of the Chinese Art Troupe, Murat Kazulayev, conductor of the group of famous actors and actresses of the Bolshoy Orchestra of the State TV and Radio Broadcasting Station of Russia, and Diobak Grigoriy Vasiliyevich, head of the Siberian dance troupe of Russia named after Mikhail Gozenko.

Individual prizes were awarded to 25 vocal soloists of foreign countries including China, Cuba, Ukraine, Moldova, Spain, Italy, Norway and Cambodia and overseas Korean artistes including those from China, four conductors of Russia, Ukraine and Mongolia and artistes of Finland, Russia, Mongolia, Belarus, Romania, India, Japan and the art troupe of Koreans in the United States who distinguished themselves in the instrumental solos and ensembles.

And artistic prizes were awarded to 43 excellent art pieces.

Prizes of creation were awarded to the vocal solo of the Pakistani art troupe "The Whole World Pays Respect," the vocal solo of the group of famous actors and actresses of the Bolshoy Orchestra of the State TV and Radio Broadcasting Station of Russia "He Will Always Be With Us", the vocal solo of the Mongolian art troupe "Paeon to the Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il", the acrobatic piece of the Vietnamese acrobatic troupe "Eastern Martial Art" and the mixed vocal trio of the art troupe of the International Korean Association (Unity) "The Leader Is Still Teaching Us".

DPRK: Anniversary of Yongsong Associated Machinery Bureau Marked

*SK1804231996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0819 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA) — The Yongsong Associated Machinery Bureau, which is the nation's leading machine-building industrial centre on the eastern coast of Korea, marked the 50th anniversary of its foundation (April 17, 1946).

Today the bureau has turned into the nation's powerful base of producing ordered equipment, which has competent technical personnel and advanced equipment capable of manufacturing any modern machine in conformity with the trend of the developing machine-building industry so as to cement the foundations of the independent national economy.

The Great Leader President Kim Il-song called on workers in Yongsong on April 17, 1946, and clearly indicated the orientation and ways for building the machine building industry. And he entrusted them with difficult and important tasks in every period of the revolution and construction and led the factory to develop into a powerful machine-building centre of the country.

The Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il visited the bureau on several occasions and has wisely led it to discharge its mission and duty creditably for socialist economic construction and the development of the nation's machine-building industry.

Over the past 50 years the workers of the bureau have manufactured such large-size machines as an 8-metre turning lathe, 20-metre extra-large lathe, 70-metre large gantry planing machine and a 10,000-ton press in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and strenuous efforts and through a powerful mass technical innovation drive. And they satisfactorily produced many sets of equipment necessary for the February 8 Vinalon Complex, the West Sea Barrage and other major construction objects of the national economy, and thus made great contributions to cementing the foundations of the independent national economy.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent a congratulatory message to the entire workers, technicians and office workers of the bureau on its foundation anniversary.

The message highly praised their extraordinary achievements in the efforts to implement the party's policy of building the machine-oriented machine industry.

A meeting to mark the anniversary was held on the spot on Wednesday.

DPRK: Progress in Production of Generating Facilities Noted

*SK1804231096 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0834 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA) — The workers of the Taean heavy machine complex of Korea are making a new progress in the production of large generating facilities.

They have been manufacturing another unit of large generating equipment since early March. They introduced advanced methods and some 100 technical innovations in production so that they could double the speed of production as against last year.

They completed the manufacture of the cyclone chamber and turbines and processed 80 percent of the acces-

sories of a large generator and inlet valve equipment in a matter of 40 days.

In this period, the No. 1 generating equipment processing shop processed the products at a 2.5 times faster rate than before. The large machine shop, the medium machine shop and the ordered metal processing shop overfulfilled their daily assignments by far.

The No. 2 generating equipment processing shop and the speed control machine shop have fulfilled 90 percent of their assignments in the production of accessories.

DPRK: 'December Thermal-Power Station' Commissioned

SK1904000796 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0821 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA) — The December Thermal-Power Station was commissioned in Korea a few days ago.

The power station occupies an area of 50,000 square metres. It is a product of self-reliance in that it was locally designed, built on a local technical basis and furnished with locally-made equipment and uses local fuel.

The main fuel is low-calory coal. There is no need to use heavy oil additionally in kindling the boiler and increasing heat in the kiln.

The station has good economical conditions as it is situated near coal mines in Kangso area, the fuel producer, and also near the power consumer area.

The station will contribute to meeting the growing need for electricity in Nampo area and increasing production at the Chollima steel complex, a major steel producer.

DPRK: 'Upswing' in Production in Various Parts of Economy

SK1904112096 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0746 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — An upswing is being kept in production in different domains of the national economy of Korea.

Footwear factories under the Associated Bureau for the Shoemaking Industry are keeping production on a high level in April after they increased the first quarterly year production by 47 percent compared with the same period last year.

Mines under the Yanggang Provincial Mining Complex are carrying out their daily ore production plan at 110 percent.

The Huichon General Machine Tool Plant is now fulfilling its daily plan at 150 percent. The Sangwon Cement Complex carried out the first quarterly year plan at 101 percent and is keeping an upswing in production in April.

Production is being boosted at the Changjagang Power Station, the Tukjang Area Coal Mining Complex, the Chonchon United Coal Mine in Chagang Province, the Tongrim Electric Apparatus Factory in North Pyongan Province and many other factories and enterprises.

South Korea

ROK: U.S. Considering Lifting Some Sanctions on DPRK

SK1904111596 *Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN*
in Korean 17 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Chong Yon-chu]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that the U.S. Government is positively reviewing measures for additional drastic lifting of the economic sanctions against North Korea, including permission for indirect investments. Considering that following the ROK-U.S. summit, a political atmosphere has now been created for implementation of the measures, the U.S. Government will push ahead with them.

Measures for additional lifting of sanctions that are actively reviewed by the U.S. Government include: investments by U.S. overseas corporations in North Korea; U.S. firms' investments in such special districts as Najin-Sonbong Zone; direct financial transactions within North Korea through U.S. banks; U.S. business firms' participation in mining of magnesite, North Korea's special mining product, and investment in the mining field; permission to export rare strategic minerals, other than magnesite, to the United States; permission for U.S. enterprises to participate in investing in telecommunications equipment; permission for U.S. aircraft to fly in the aviation intelligence zone in North Korea; and permission for U.S. commercial charter planes to fly to North Korea.

On 15 April, a diplomatic source in Washington who is well-versed in U.S.-North Korean relations pointed out that "a political atmosphere has now matured to facilitate the additional lifting of economic sanctions following the ROK-U.S. summit. According to the Cheju declaration which provided that North Korea-U.S. relations will be dealt with apart from the issue of a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, there is a great possibility that the U.S. Government will unilaterally

implement policy on relations with North Korea without the stumbling block of resumed North-South dialogue, which had worked as a precondition up to now."

The source revealed that "If North Korea takes a step to violate the Armistice Agreement or stages a display of armed forces, however, such additional measures by the U.S. Government will be delayed."

The source added that "measures for additional lifting of economic sanctions being reviewed by the United States at present are numerous. In view of the issue of U.S. domestic laws, including the law on trade with hostile nations, the law on freezing overseas assets and properties, and the like, and of the necessity for maintaining political leverage on North Korea, it is highly likely that the U.S. Government will gradually implement such core measures as permission for direct investment and trade of commodities according to North Korea's response."

The source stated that with regards to the United States' additional lifting of sanctions, high-ranking U.S. Government officials emphasized that it has been the U.S. policy to bring about a soft landing for North Korea, and for this, the U.S. Government has been actively reviewing measures for the past several months.

The United States took steps to ease economic sanctions against North Korea in compliance with the Geneva agreement on 21 January 1995. However, some voiced criticism that the steps were so meager and symbolic that the position of the moderate faction [in North Korea], which led negotiations with United States, has been weakened to a great extent.

ROK Daily: U.S. To Lift Additional Economic Sanctions on DPRK

*SK1904111596 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN
in Korean 17 Apr 96 p 1*

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**ROK: Foreign Minister Kong on U.S.-DPRK,
South-North Relations**

*SK1904010696 Seoul YONHAP in English
0056 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP) — Foreign Minister Kong No-myong said Thursday that improvements in U.S.-North Korea relations will go hand in hand with those in inter-Korean relations.

"Even after the announcement was made after the latest South Korea-U.S. summit, the principle of 'harmony and parallel' between improvements of U.S.-North Korea and the inter-Korean relations remains intact," Kong said in an MBC TV talk show.

"It cannot be a one-way street allowing improved U.S.-North Korea relations while inter-Korean relations remain deadlocked," Kong said.

In the proposed four-party talks on a peace regime, he said, North Korea could bring up for discussion any matter of its concern like the issue of a provisional peace accord with the United States. "Inter-Korean negotiations would be possible through the quadripartite talks, too," Kong added.

Regarding the agenda of the proposed four-way talks, the foreign minister said, "A wide range of formulas for reducing tensions on the Korean peninsula will be discussed. The eventual goal would be to conclude a peace agreement."

**ROK: U.S., DPRK To Begin Missile Talks in Berlin
19 Apr**

*SK1904013796 Seoul YONHAP in English
0126 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Berlin, April 18 (YONHAP) — North Korea and the United States will begin their negotiations Friday to discuss ways to put North Korean-made missiles under an international monitoring system.

Yi Hyong-chol, director-general of the North Korean Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Bureau now heading the North Korean delegation, said upon arrival here Thursday, "We will decide on the agenda and schedule of this meeting through discussions with the U.S. side."

Robert Einhorn, deputy assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs, will lead the U.S. delegation. He is scheduled to arrive here on Saturday.

The meeting is believed to address not only the long-standing U.S. demand that North Korea stop exporting its Scud missiles to Middle East countries but also other matters of common concern.

Observers here expect that the U.S. delegation will sound out the North Korean position on the "four-party meeting" proposed by the presidents of South Korea and the United States after their talks earlier this week.

ROK: DPRK Official on Missile Talks With U.S.

*SK1904113296 Seoul YONHAP in English
1106 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Berlin, April 19 (YONHAP) — U.S. and North Korean delegations will have their formal talks on North Korea's missile issue beginning Saturday here in Berlin, a Pyongyang official here said Friday.

The official at the North Korean interests mission here said, "The first session will take place around 9 am Saturday at the Berlin Office of the American Embassy."

He added that the meeting is expected to have two-round talks at the American Embassy Berlin Office and the North Korean interests mission by turn.

However, he said, the two countries were yet to determine detailed schedules like agenda topics because chief American delegate Robert Einhorn did not arrive in Berlin yet.

Asked whether the meeting would discuss the four-party talks proposal, the official said, "Regarding this matter, you will have to wait a little more."

He said the United States wants not to make public all things about the Berlin missile talks.

ROK: Issues of Quadrilateral Talks Examined

*SK1904061296 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN
in Korean 19 Apr 96 p 5*

[Article by editorial writer Yi Won-sop: "North Korea's 'Choice'"]

[FBIS Summary] Many people question why North Korea helped South Korea's Kim Yong-sam regime through the display of force in Panmunjom, even though it had all along slandered the regime. Some even say North Korea has paid for the 150,000 tonnes of rice it received from South Korea.

Still, I am surprised to hear North Korea say that the New Korea Party of South Korea lost the parliamentary elections. Does North Korea know so little about South Korea? Or, is this a political game?

Anyway, this disappoints numerous progressive South Korean intellectuals who try to understand North Korea and seek to solve the North-South problem through dialogue, even though they do not support the North Korean regime.

It is fortunate that North Korea made the first official reaction to the proposal for four-party talks on 18 April. "Whether the talks will be held or not will be determined by how realistic a view the North Korean regime has toward North-South affairs and the situation in Northeast Asia."

North Korea may still believe South Korea and Japan will comply with any U.S. decision. This has been proven by North Korea's gains from its diplomacy of brinkmanship. However, North Korea must know this is partially true.

If proposals like the proposal for four-party talks fail to win support from the parties concerned, they will end in mere declarations. If the ROK and the United States want North Korea to come to the negotiating table, they should provide conditions. In addition to providing immediate carrots, they should give it the assurances that they will not shake its regime. In this respect, the ROK must no longer be jittery about the efforts by the United States and Japan to have contacts and establish diplomatic relations with North Korea. "North Korea-U.S. and North Korea-Japan contacts will rather hasten North Korea's opening up and reduce the unpredictability."

ROK Daily Analyzes Possible DPRK Positions on 4-Way Talks

SK1704120196 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
17 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by reporter Kim In-ku]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that for now, North Korea has rejected the "four-way talks" put forward by the ROK and the United States. According to Russia's ITAR-TASS News Agency, Son Song-pil, North Korea's ambassador to Russia, held a news conference just two hours after the proposal for the four-way talks was made, flatly rejecting it by saying: "There is no reason to hold an international meeting to establish a new security system on the Korean peninsula." ITAR-TASS reported that Ambassador Son claimed: "No other country, except for the United States and North Korea, has any role in concluding the peace agreement."

It was learned that after being asked to comment on the proposal for the four-way talks, Yi Sam-no, DPRK ambassador to Thailand, confirmed his government's position by saying: "New negotiations to replace the Armistice Agreement must be held between the parties concerned — the United States and North Korea." It seems the remarks by Son Song-pil and Yi Sam-no considerably reflect the official position of the North Korean authorities.

On the other hand, there is a great possibility that North Korea may overturn their remarks and respond to the four-way talks. The Ministry of National Unification revealed: As of now, it is difficult to view their comments as North Korea's official position. We must observe the announcement of North Korea's official position through its government-controlled news agency."

In the past, North Korea showed a negative attitude toward "multifaceted security talks," including the "2-plus-2 method." North Korea's consistent claim was that "South Korea, a colonial cat's paw which has no real power, is in no position to take part in the conclusion of the peace agreement."

On the occasion of 15 August 1995, the 50th anniversary of liberation, the government provided to North Korea the tentatively named "plan to establish security on the Korean peninsula," with the four-way talks as the main framework. However, it misfired because of North Korean opposition. Regarding PRC Premier Li Peng's claim in November 1994 that "all related countries must participate in the process of establishing a new peace agreement system," North Korea did not directly name the PRC, but opposed this by saying: "If countries that have no relation to the Korean issue interfere, it will only complicate establishing a new peace guarantee system."

However, there is a possibility North Korea will accept the four-way talks at some point. This will occur when the ROK and United States provide a "carrot," such as economic assistance, so that North Korea will accept the four-way talks, or when the situation is driven to the point that an improvement in U.S.-North Korea relations is a precondition for the four-way talks. It is expected that if the PRC plays an appropriate role, the conditions for North Korea to reject this proposal will become more and more narrow.

It is expected that Japan and Russia, which have been eliminated from the four-way talks, also will be variables on whether North Korea accepts these talks. This will become clear when, regardless of the progress in South-North relations, Japan resumes negotiations with North Korea to establish diplomatic relations, and thus resolves the issue of compensation, and when Russia actively comes forward to revive North Korea's economy. In addition, if Russia insists on the so-called six-way talks in the form of "2-plus-4," there is a possibility that North Korea may intentionally delay the four-way talks, using this as an excuse.

**ROK Said Feeling Need To 'Soothe' Russia's
'Discontent'**

SK1904021996 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 19 Apr 96 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Kyong-ho: "Seoul May Have To Calm Moscow Over Its Exclusion From 4-Way Peace Talks"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Korea appears to be feeling the need to soothe Russia's discontent over its exclusion from a framework for building a new peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

Few policymakers in Seoul believe Russia will attempt to scuttle the joint South Korean-U.S. offer to meet with North Korea and China on a new peace arrangement to replace the current armistice.

But they apparently feel the need to appease Russia in order to add pressure on Pyongyang to accept the proposal for four-way talks.

Moscow lost no time in rejecting the proposal which ignored its potential role in establishing a new peace system on the Peninsula to replace the armistice accord which ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman insisted that the problems of the Korean peninsula should be settled on a multilateral basis, "taking account of the interest of all the parties involved.

Russia has called for an international conference on settling the Korean problems, which would be attended by officials from the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia, the United States and international organizations such as the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Moscow is keen to reverse a rapid decline in its diplomatic clout, especially in the Far East, following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Recently Russia has been rebuilding relations with North Korea to restore balance to its Korean Peninsula policy which has tilted toward South Korea since the establishment of diplomatic ties with Seoul in 1991.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Ignatenko, who visited Pyongyang last week, reportedly conveyed a verbal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to North Korean leader Kim Chong-il, hoping to develop stronger bilateral ties.

The proposal for four-way talks, from which Russia is excluded, seems to be strengthening Moscow's feeling that it has not been duly treated by Seoul and it has reaped little from opening formal ties with Seoul.

In deciding to propose a four-party meeting, South Korean officials may have judged that more participants would complicate the process and weaken Seoul's leading role.

But Russia's unpleasant attitude has certainly become a burden for them in promoting for their strategy for creating a permanent peace regime on the Peninsula.

Although Seoul officials deny it, South Korea is moving to galvanize economic cooperation with Russia in order to soothe Russia's displeasure.

A Foreign Ministry official said yesterday South Korea and Russia are preparing to hold the first meeting of their joint economic commission in Moscow in May.

During the meeting, to be chaired by deputy prime minister-level officials, delegates from the two countries will focus their discussion on expanding South Korea's investment in Russia.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1991, South Korean businesses have invested a meager \$40 million in Russia, one major source of Russia's dissatisfaction.

Before the planned economic meeting, Foreign Minister Kong No-myong is scheduled to visit Moscow for talks with his Russian counterpart and other Russian officials.

Kong is expected to seek Moscow's understanding on the proposed four-way talks and discuss Russia's engagement in other forms with Russian officials.

A Foreign Ministry official said he does not believe Russia will prevent the four-party talks from convening, but added Russia is pessimistic about the possibility of Pyongyang accepting the idea.

But he cautiously predicted that Russia might insist it join the United States and China in endorsing a peace treaty signed between South and North Korea if the four-way talks were realized.

South Korea's recent active approach toward economic cooperation with Russia may reflect its wish to help boost the prospects of President Yeltsin emerging as winner in the coming Russian presidential election in June.

Seoul officials are worried that if the Communist candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov were elected, Russia would move closer to North Korea, thus complicating Seoul's efforts toward a new Korean peace regime.

ROK Daily Urges Government Caution in Quadrilateral Talks*SK1904070396 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 19 Apr 96 p 3*

[Editorial: "Justification for the Four-Party Talks and Actual Gains Resulting From Them"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that the ROK Government is considering not only providing various forms of support to North Korea, but also making many concessions to it once it accepts the proposal for quadrilateral talks. It also seems that if the so-called "two-plus-two format" — in which the North and the South, the parties concerned, engage in direct negotiations while the United States and China endorse them — is not adhered to but, if the framework of the quadrilateral talks is maintained, the government will consider allowing North Korean-U.S. contact within the framework of the talks.

Of course, it is not bad to think about making concessions in order to achieve success in the talks, but we cannot help but worry that the quadrilateral talks will end in failure without a substantial result. We fully understand why the government has to consider such a last resort. In other words, the present serious situation — in which acute political and military tensions continue between the North and the South and there is a high possibility of the Kim Chong-il regime of North Korea taking an indiscreet adventure in the wake of its economic difficulties — should be done away with at any cost.

At a time when the tug of war for hegemony by big powers has become unprecedentedly acute on the Northeast Asian stage, it is indeed foolish for the North and the South, located in the middle of this tug of war, to continue fighting and bickering with each other.

The time has come for the North and the South, which are the masters of the question of the Korean peninsula, to rise up in the work of deciding on their destiny by themselves.

Nevertheless, what we cannot eliminate at present is our concern that we may become the best man for the quadrilateral talks. The government has reportedly revealed its position that once the quadrilateral talks are held, first, the four parties meet together at a table; next, the North and the South meet and conduct negotiations; and after that, North Korea and the United States can meet and conduct negotiations. It is only too clear that even if the four parties meet together, North Korea will attempt to conduct dialogue only with the United States.

Therefore, the quadrilateral talks will turn out to be North Korea-U.S. talks in the long run. In other words,

if we declare beforehand our will to allow North Korea-U.S. negotiations, the quadrilateral talks will be no more than a name and will become de facto North Korea-U.S. negotiations.

Accordingly, the problem is how we can prevent the quadrilateral talks from becoming de facto North Korea-U.S. talks. To prevent the quadrilateral talks from becoming North Korea-U.S. talks while providing all possible assistance and making concessions to North Korea with the aim of leading it into the framework of the quadrilateral talks, it is important and inevitable to further strengthen our diplomatic efforts toward the United States and China. We firmly believe that when our diplomatic efforts toward the United States and China are firm, we can at least block the quadrilateral talks from becoming North Korea-U.S. talks.

Therefore, if the government is not confident of doing this, it should reconsider making hasty and unconditional concessions to North Korea. If a direct dialogue is held between North Korea and the United States while our diplomatic efforts toward the United States and China bear no success, it is certain that we will lose not only actual gains from the quadrilateral talks but also our justification for the talks.

ROK Daily Analyzes DPRK's True Intention Over Four-Party Talks*SK1904050696 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 19 Apr 96 p 2*

[Article by reporter Kim Song-chin: "North Korea's Intent in Examining the Feasibility of Four-party Talks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea made its first official response to the ROK-U.S. proposal for four-party talks, saying that it is examining whether the talks are "feasible." This has increased the possibility for holding four-party talks. However, it merely stated that it is "examining" the proposal, without clearly saying that it would accept the talks. This reserved attitude makes it difficult for us to conclude that the four-party talks will be held. Since the ROK and the United States jointly advanced the proposal on 16 April, the United States has reportedly been making close contact with North Korea to persuade it to accept the proposal. This further increases the possibility for the talks.

During an interview with the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), a spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry said that "we are now examining the proposal for four-party talks to see whether it is feasible," adding that "at this time, we can make no further comment."

This is a little progress from North Korea's previous negative position, which Ambassador to Russia Son Song-pil and Ambassador to Thailand Yi Sam-no expressed right after the ROK and the United States jointly advanced the proposal for four-party talks on 16 April.

The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said: "It is a stern reality that there is an urgent requirement for the outdated Armistice Agreement to be replaced by a peace agreement." This leads us to believe that North Korea feels that a North Korea-U.S. peace agreement can be signed through four-party talks. Therefore, North Korea may very likely advance a counterproposal, still without completely rejecting the ROK-U.S. proposal.

A contrary analysis is possible, as well. For example, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry noted that the four-party talks are "Clinton's proposal," without mentioning President Kim Yong-sam, the cosponsor of the proposal. This conforms to the previous North Korean allegation that the parties to signing a peace agreement are North Korea and the United States and that South Korea has no part in the negotiations.

We must take note of the fact that North Korea made its first official response not through a commentary by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry but through an interview with the KCNA. We must take note of this because KCNA is not known in North Korea but targets a foreign audience. Now that it seeks to improve relations with the United States, North Korea may believe that it is not desirable to immediately reject a proposal that the U.S. President advanced emphatically. Some even point out that North Korea may not accept four-party talks because it can meet, unrestrained, with the United States in missile talks and talks on the return of remains. Consequently, we must wait longer to see what North Korea's true intention is.

ROK Dailies Review New U.S.-Japan Security Accord

SK1804134396

[FBIS Report] The following is a compilation of editorials carried in Seoul vernacular dailies on 18 April concerning the new U.S.-Japan security accord.

The moderate TONG-A ILBO carries an 800-word editorial titled "The New Joint Security Declaration of the United States and Japan." The editorial declares that the U.S.-Japan joint security declaration announced following the U.S.-Japan summit held in Tokyo on 17 April is "an expansion of the security cooperation" between the two countries in the Asia-Pacific region and represents "the upgrading of the existing U.S.-Japan security system into a broad security alliance."

Describing the background of the new joint security declaration, the editorial stresses that "the declaration will enhance Japan's military role in the Asia and Pacific region in the future." The editorial stresses that "the purpose of the declaration, however, is to prevent Japan from forming a collective security alliance to be initiated and led by it in the region and to blind Japan to a security body led by the United States."

The editorial goes on to stress that another purpose of the declaration is to realize the United States' strategy to check China, which is becoming a big military power. The editorial then expresses worries over China's response to the U.S.-Japan Security Declaration by stating: If Japan pursues a military role corresponding to its economic power in the region in place of the United States, the balance of military power in the Northeast Asia will be broken and an arms race will take place between China and Japan.

The editorial also stresses that the United States and Japan should strengthen cooperation with China and normalize relations between Japan and Russia in order to maintain regional security. In conclusion, the editorial stresses the need to closely watch Japan's military role in the Asia and Pacific region under the new U.S.-Japan security accord by stating: The enhanced Japanese military role "may bring about the resurgence of militarism in Japan."

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO carries a 700-word editorial titled "New U.S.-Japan Security Alliance System." The editorial states that the new U.S.-Japan Security Declaration announced on 17 April is definitely a signal showing the "start of a new security alliance between the United States and Japan, as well as a great change in the security order in the Northeast Asia." The editorial goes on to state that the new U.S.-Japan security alliance is "designed to blind Japan, which has been attempting to build its own security system since the end of the Cold War era, into a security system led by the United States and, thus, to continuously maintain the military superiority of the United States in Northeast Asia."

Noting that the new U.S.-Japan security alliance is the idea of Nye, former U.S. assistant secretary of defense, the editorial points out the contents of the new security alliance accord and the reactions of the neighboring countries, such as China and Russia.

Noting that the main target of the new security alliance accord is China, the editorial notes China's attempt to improve relations with Russia, which is trying to recover influence in Asia. In this connection, the editorial says that "therefore, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to China slated for 24 April is very important."

Citing our stance toward the new U.S.-Japan security alliance accord, the editorial says that "the birth of the new U.S.-Japan security accord has both a positive and a negative aspect," adding: "Our country, which is confronting North Korea, will inevitably need effective support from both the United States and Japan in case of an emergency. However, we should be on alert against Japan becoming a big military power."

The editorial concludes by stressing that "the birth of the new U.S.-Japan security alliance accord has imposed a heavy diplomatic burden on us," and urging the ROK Government to build up its own strength in order to effectively cope with the rapidly changing international situation.

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN carries a 700-word editorial titled "We Need To Closely Watch Japan Become a Big Military Power." The editorial notes that "a rapid change is taking place in the international power structure surrounding the Korean Peninsula in Northeast Asia," and "we cannot help but be vigilant toward the U.S.-led ongoing reorganization of the power structure in Northeast Asia, which will increase Japan's military role in this region."

Noting the acute military confrontation between North and South Korea, the tense relations between China and Taiwan, and the vigilance by neighboring countries against Japan's growing military power, the editorial concludes that the purpose of U.S. President Clinton's current visit to Cheju Island and Tokyo was "to establish a new balance of forces in Northeast Asia."

Touching on the new U.S.-Japan security alliance declaration, the editorial notes that "the new Northeast Asian strategy of the United States as contained in the new U.S.-Japan security alliance declaration is to enhance Japan's military role in this region" in a bid to check China, which is armed with nuclear weapons. The editorial goes on to say that "the purpose of including China in the four-party talks, however, is to maintain the balance of power in Northeast Asia by recognizing China's share in this region."

The editorial concludes by noting that "the possibility of Japan becoming a big military power in addition to the signs of China advancing toward hegemonism is indeed an arduous and difficult diplomatic issue facing us."

ROK Daily Urges Setting Up New 'Diplomatic Security Policy'

SK1904004796 (Internet) *The Digital Choson Ilbo*
WWW in English 1229 GMT 18 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Korean-type Diplomatic Security"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] America and Japan have started a new security system, reconfirming the importance of the US-Japan security treaty and agreeing to expand security cooperation. The strengthened alliance between Japan and America, for us, has a double meaning in that it is helpful from the standpoint of security and the problem posed by North Korea, but a concern considering our unhappy history with Japan.

In the cold war era America, in it's Northeast Asia security policy with Japan and Korea forming an alliance, placed emphasis on controlling China and Russia expansionism. Korea was important to the security of the US and Japan during that era. However, after the cold war America shifted emphasis to the Asian-Pacific area. If the alliance has switched from a US-Japan-Korean one to that of placing emphasis on the US-Japan, we must consider ourselves as a secondary factor like other countries in this area. In this regard, China's criticism of the joint US-Japan security accord is understandable.

Our security policy can not be at the same level as that of Japan and the US because of North Korea. We have to overcome this limitation and actively work toward countering the new security situation. If we accept the initiative of Japan and the US at face value, we will forever become divided and managed.

It's time for us to raise our awareness to a new level and make a new challenge. It is not easy to proceed side by side with advanced countries in terms of security while maintaining the framework of the cold war. We should reform and globalize our security system to cope with the north-south problem and become a legitimate member of the international security system of the 21st century. Our new task is to establish a new diplomatic security policy while recognizing America's changed role without becoming subordinate.

ROK, U.S. To Discuss Agricultural Import Inspection System

SK1904025396 Seoul YONHAP in English
0202 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP) — South Korea and the United States will begin a new round of talks Monday to discuss South Korea's inspection system for imported agricultural products which the United States filed a complaint against with the World Trade Organization (WTO) last April.

Deputy Director General Chong U-song of the Foreign Ministry's International Trade Bureau will lead the South Korean delegation to the talks scheduled for a couple of days in Washington.

Seoul and Washington have had three rounds of talks since last April to resolve the dispute over Seoul's agricultural import inspection system without producing agreement satisfactory to both sides.

ROK: South, North Korean Students Arrive in Berkeley for Seminar

SK1804033796 Seoul YONHAP in English
01317GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Berkeley, California, April 17 (YONHAP) — South and North Korean student representatives will meet at a seminar here Saturday for the first time since the division in 1945 of the Korean peninsula to discuss issues concerning the reunification of their country.

The North's delegation to the symposium, sponsored by the Korean studies committee of the university of California-Berkeley, arrived Wednesday at a local airport here and was greeted by its South Korean counterpart.

The South Korean delegation, which arrived 30 minutes before its North Korean counterpart, is represented by Seoul National University student Yi Chae-song, Yi Pong-cho, analytical researcher for the National Unification Ministry, and Chi Un-hui, a researcher from the Women's Social Education Institute.

North Korea will be represented by Kwon Ho-ung, a Kim Il-song University student, Kim Kyong-nam, deputy director of the Unification Issue Research Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, and Kim Yong-song, director of the Social and Political Research Institute of Kim Il-song University.

Kim Kyong-nam declared that there is no change in North Korea's reunification policy, and expressed his hope that the symposium would be successful in thoroughly discussing the reunification issue.

The two delegations checked into the same hotel after touring Berkeley.

The symposium was also held last year, but the North's student delegation failed to show up for reasons unknown.

ROK: North, South Students Meet in Berkeley, Discuss Reunification

SK1904083496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0758 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] San Francisco, April 19 (YONHAP) — South and North Korean students attending a symposium on the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula adopted a declaration pledging that they will contribute to peaceful unification of their fatherland Thursday.

During the first discussion between students of the two Koreas since the peninsula was divided decades ago held at a Lutheran church near the University of California, Berkeley, the students also called for a grand national unity while reaffirming that people of the two Koreas are one nation.

Yi Chae-song who represented the Seoul National University [SNU] Student Council pointed out that "national unification should precede ideology and political regimes from the viewpoint of national co-existence."

Yi was calling for reorientation of educational ideology to break the reality in which the nation was divided.

The SNU representative stressed that curricula in schools should be open to the level where discussions could be allowed on the North's chuche or self-reliance ideology.

"Students in South and North Korea should take the lead in making efforts to reduce the arms race and divert the defense budget to welfare and education sectors through confidence building between the two Koreas," he said.

Kwon Ho-ung of Kim Il-song University meanwhile insisted that students of South and North Korea will have to take the lead in putting an end to the nation's tragic history in which the nation was divided by outside forces.

"We should achieve a grand unity of the nation on the basis of ethnic homogeneity in which the people (of the Korean Peninsula) nurtured a national culture as a single nation through 5,000 years of history," he said.

Kwon urged students from South and North Korea to struggle against forces at home and abroad which hinder unification efforts.

The North Korean student representative said that he would discuss with Kim Il-song University students the possibility of inviting Seoul National University and UC Berkeley students to North Korea for the North Korean university's 50th anniversary.

ROK: CHOSON ILBO Speculates on Secret Contacts Between ROK, DPRK*SK1904024296 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 19 Apr 96 p 6*

[Article by Song Ui-tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the proposal for four-party talks, people are paying attention to whether there are secret contacts between the North and South. Behind every major incident that brought a breakthrough in North-South relations, including the 4 July joint statement, there were secret contacts between North and South Korea playing the leading role. The rumor has now become fact that many secret envoys were existence during the Sixth Republic. Such contacts continued into the current regime, with eight to nine secret lines reportedly being operated during the planning for the 1994 North-South summit talks and the 1995 rice talks in Beijing. Official comments by government officials state: "There have been some secret contacts, but they were all suspended following the rice aid and third Beijing rice talks due to the uncertainty of intelligence and concerns over the side and reverse effects." However, observers believe certain secret contacts have continued even during the time of heightened war threats when North Korea conducted a show of force in Panmunjom.

Rumors hold that at least six to seven lines of secret contacts are operating, including the Beijing Office of the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation, which made possible the rice talks in 1995; ROK Government officials; ROK businessmen; Korean-Americans whose names are initialed C and J; a Korean-Chinese; and a Korean residing in Australia. These people mainly contact ranking North Korean officials of the External Economic Committee under the Administration Council. Some contact the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces or other departments within the Administration Council. Their intelligence is considered high-level.

A government source said: "As far as I know, there were working-level contacts in Beijing in March. The main topic was North Korea's economic situation." ROK company executives who returned from North Korea in early April are believed to have worked as the messenger between high-ranking South and North Korean Government officials, even though their contacts are not considered government-level.

This coming June and July will show the worst food crisis for North Korea. Coupled by the end of the three-year mourning period for Kim Il-sung, an epochal change in North-South relations is expected around this time if such secret contacts continue.

ROK: Kong Chin-tae Profiled as New 'Mayor' of Najin-Sonbong Area*SK1904011696 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 18 Apr 96 p 22*

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that Kong Chin-tae, vice premier and chairman of the Commission of Public Welfare in North Korea, was appointed as chairman of the Najin-Sonbong Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee (mayor), replacing Paek Hwa-yong, the former chairman who died last month.

Kong's appointment has been confirmed by an ethnic Korean businessman in the PRC who has his chapter office in the Najin-Sonbong District. A relevant ROK Government official also supported the possibility of Kong's appointment. Kong Chin-tae was born in South Pyongan Province in 1925 and graduated from Japan College. He was nominated as a professor at the National Economy College in 1954, and soon began his career as government official in North Korea.

In July 1964, Kong Chin-tae was appointed as director-general of the General Bureau of External Economic Affairs. Since then, he was appointed chairman of the External Economy Commission; director of the External Economic Affairs Department; chairman of the State Planning Committee; and other important economic posts within the Administration Council. Thus, he has been known as an expert in economic affairs. He was also appointed as vice premier in 1975 and 1978. North Korea's appointment of the incumbent vice premier, with more than 20 years experience in external economic matters, to the responsible post for Najin-Sonbong can be interpreted as the expression of its will to more positively push ahead with the development of this district.

ROK: DPRK Official: Najin Must Be Separated From Political Issues*SK1804142296 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1100 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[YONHAP report from Beijing]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of North Korea's External Economic Committee, said today that the issue of developing the Najin-Sonbong free trade zone must be separated from political issues, and both sides of the North and South should cooperate with each other.

Vice Chairman Kim, who is participating as the North side's chief delegate in the first meeting of the five-country Tumen River Development Consultative Commission which opened today in Beijing, said as such when he met Vice Finance and Economy Minister Yi

Hwan-kyun, the ROK side's chief delegate, during the rest time of the morning session meeting.

Vice Chairman Kim flatly said, however, that there is no intention at all to hold intergovernmental contacts with the ROK side regarding the Najin-Sonbong development issue.

He also said it will be good if many countries can participate in the Tumen River development project. Therefore, the DPRK does not oppose participation by the United States and Japan.

ROK: Trade Promotion Corporation Reports DPRK's Foreign Debt

SK1804030196 (Internet) *The Digital Choson Ilbo*
WWW in English 1226 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] North Korea's foreign debt is entering into its tenth year of overdue status, amounting to \$10 billion. To celebrate the anniversary, banks in the west are beginning to clamor for their paybacks. According to figures released Wednesday by the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation, North Korea's foreign debt can be broken down as follows: Russia, \$3 billion; China, \$1 billion; European countries, \$1 billion; and Japan, \$500 million.

Private financial institutions of western countries, including more than 100 banks, have, as yet, been unable to retrieve their loans. At this juncture, they are now organizing a system of four syndicates which are suing North Korea for a combined total of \$1.6 billion.

ROK: DPRK Heightens Surveillance of Loggers in Siberia

96p30156 *Seoul NAEWOE TONGSIN* in Korean
7 Mar 96 pp E1-E3

[FBIS Summary] North Korea has been intensifying surveillance of its loggers in Siberia in order to prevent ideological laxity, to curb the number of escapees, and to prohibit them from spreading news about the outside world after their return to the country. As a deterrent measure, DPRK authorities are emphasizing ideological education among the workers when they are about to return home. They are instructed not to talk about what they have learned in Siberia. Even after their return, the workers have to undergo a three-year ideological review period during which their conduct is monitored. During this time, they are also ineligible to become party members. In addition, while they are in Siberia, DPRK authorities screen letters between the loggers and their families at a letter inspection station in Pyongyang.

Because the workers are increasingly exposed to South Korean broadcasts in Siberia, the DPRK authorities have

banned their television viewing, according to defectors. In an effort to identify potential escapees, room dividers have been removed at the loggers' quarters, so 15 people stay in the same room.

ROK Goods 'Secretly' Circulating in DPRK 'at High Prices'

SK1904010896 *Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO* in Korean
18 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Referring to testimonies by North Korean defectors to the ROK, NAEWOE press reported on 17 April that various ROK-made products—including clothes, socks, shoes, electronic products, and so forth—are secretly circulating at high prices among North Korean residents. According to testimonies, ROK commodities began to circulate in North Korea in September 1989 when the international youth and student festival was held. Through Hyesan in Yanggang Province and Sinuiju in North Pyongan Province, areas bordering the PRC, ROK-made daily necessities and industrial products have been brought into North Korea as barter trade for North Korean-made ginseng, copper, marine products, and the like. Meanwhile, Koreans residing in Japan, the United States, and Canada brought ROK-made goods as gifts for their relatives when they visited North Korea, and North Koreans carried ROK-made products when they returned from their overseas services. These are the main portion of products recently circulating in North Korea.

ROK: EU Urges DPRK To Respect Truce Agreement

SK1904000996 *Seoul YONHAP* in English
1225 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels, April 18 (YONHAP) — The European Union (EU) on Thursday urged North Korea to stop committing acts of building up tension on the Korean Peninsula and to abide by the Military Armistice Agreement.

In a statement issued by the current chairman country, Italy, of its ministerial council, the EU said the April 4 statement of the North Korean People's Army that they would give up the duty regarding the Demilitarized Zone and the subsequent acts of violating the Armistice Agreement have set off worldwide concerns.

Noting that the Armistice Agreement has been helpful to sustaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, the statement said the EU believes the truce agreement should be maintained until a peace agreement is discussed and decided among all relevant countries including South Korea.

ROK: Japanese Ruling Coalition Delegation To Visit 22 Apr*SK1904114696 Seoul YONHAP in English
0842 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP) — A delegation from the Japanese ruling coalition parties, headed by Chairman Taku Yamasaki of the Liberal Democratic Party's Policy Affairs Research Council, will come to Seoul Monday for a three-day visit, the Foreign Ministry announced Friday.

The delegates are scheduled to pay a courtesy call on President Kim Yong-sam and meet with National Unification Minister Kwon O-ki, Foreign Minister Kong No-myong and Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho to discuss pending Northeast Asian issues and ways to promote bilateral relations.

They are also slated to meet with ruling New Korea Party Chairman Kim Yun-hwan and Korea-Japan Friendship Association Chairman Kim Su-hwan to exchange views about common interests.

Foreign Ministry sources said the Japanese delegates will visit North Korea in the near future to discuss resuming talks regarding Pyongyang-Tokyo diplomatic relations and providing additional food to the communist state.

Other members of the delegation include Shikeru Ito, policy deliberation committee chairman of the Social Democratic Party, and Kisaburo Tokai, policy council chairman of the New Party, the Sakigake.

ROK: Tuman Project's Secretariat To Be Set Up in Beijing*SK1904114596 Seoul YONHAP in English
1101 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, April 19 (YONHAP) — The inter-governmental coordination commission of the Tuman River Area Development Project (TRADP) ended its first two-day meeting here Friday after deciding to set up the commission's secretariat in Beijing.

The commission, consisting of vice-minister-level officials of South and North Korea, China, Russia and Mongolia, also resolved to have the second meeting here in September.

At the second-day session Friday held at Liangmahe Hotel, the commission agreed to have its secretariat in Seoul, Beijing and Vladivostok by turn for three years in each area.

The agreement was that the secretariat would be located in Beijing in the first three years and the next site will be chosen in 1998 between Seoul and Vladivostok.

The head of the Beijing office of the UN Development Program (UNDP) will serve as the commission's secretary general on a temporary basis pending formal selection at the second meeting in September.

The meeting also adopted a 66-point mid-term project, which includes a forum to be held in the Najin-Sonbong area in September to spur investment in the special North Korean economic district and a working-level meeting slated for some time in the second half of this year in Pusan on the exchange of electronic materials regarding maritime shipping.

However, the meeting failed to adopt a plan to have the five member countries equally share the expenses of the Secretariat and related programs because a member country objected [to] it on the ground of its difficult economic situation.

"The cost sharing plan will be resolved at the second meeting in September," South Korea's chief delegate, Vice Finance-Economy Minister Yi Hwan-kyun, said.

ROK: Tumen Consultative Commission Opens 1st Meeting in Beijing*SK1804074496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0642 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, April 18 (YONHAP) — Vice ministerial officials from South and North Korea, China, Russia and Mongolia opened the first meeting of the Tumen Consultative Commission in Beijing Thursday morning.

The two-day closed-door meeting of the commission responsible for coordinating the UNDP [United Nations Development Program]-sponsored Tumen River area development program is set to discuss where the commission's secretariat should be located and how it will be financed, procedural rules and medium- and long-term business programs.

Upon conclusion of the session, representatives from North Korea, China and Russia, which share the border along the Tumen River, are scheduled to hold a separate meeting.

No conclusions regarding the agenda are expected to come out of the two-day conference, an official of the South Korean delegation said.

Three countries — South Korea, China and Russia — want to locate the commission's secretariat in their countries.

South Korea is represented at the conference by Vice Finance and Economy Minister Yi Hwan-kyun, North Korea by Vice External Economy Commission Chairman

Kim Chong-u, and China by Assistant Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Minister Long Yongtu.

On the eve of the conference, the representatives attended a reception hosted by the South Korean delegation. They are scheduled to attend another reception Thursday evening that will be hosted by the Chinese delegation.

ROK: Minister Discusses ROK-PRC Aircraft Project Negotiations

SK1904024396 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Apr 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite the on-again, off-again negotiations between Korea and China over their joint development of a mid-sized aircraft, Seoul would not give up hope for a successful outcome the nation's top industry policymaker said.

"We hope that we will find a break-through before a bilateral industrial cooperation committee scheduled for June," Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Pak Chae-yun told reporters yesterday.

Asked what would happen if the two sides came with empty hands to the ministerial-level committee, Pak responded that it would still be hasty for the two governments to abandon the project.

The joint-venture project to develop and manufacture a 100-seat aircraft, agreed upon at the 1993 summit between President Kim Yong-sam and Chinese President Jiang Zemin, has hit a snag due to differences of opinion over details especially concerning the location of a final assembly plant.

While the negotiations were drifting along, Beijing has hinted that it might dump Seoul in favor of another partner, such as Singapore, and has gone so far as to induce the latter through partial allocations of equity.

Industry watchers here, however, say that the project, originally aimed at integrating China's large market and prowess in basic science with Korea's capital and manufacturing technology, would be as good as dead if the two sides fail to find a compromise formula before June.

In a meeting with reporters, Minister Pak also said that the ministry will hasten the privatization of the government-held machinery maker, Korea Heavy Industries and Construction Co., or HANJUNG.

Pak said that the government will soon arrive at a timetable for privatizing HANJUNG as well as developing a detailed method to dispose of its equity in the heavy machinery maker. The changes that will

take place in the nation's machinery industrial scenario will depend on who emerges as its new owner.

ROK: NKP Legislator-Elect Booked on Election Violation Charges

SK1804115396 Seoul YONHAP in English 1035 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP) — Pak Song-pom, who was elected in the recent general elections from the Seoul Chong-ku district on the ruling New Korea Party ticket, was booked by the prosecution Thursday on election law violation charges.

A source at the Seoul District Prosecutor's Office said Pak is suspected of having engaged in pre-electioneering in violation of the integrated election law.

Pak, the source said, is under the suspicion that he offered fruits and rice cakes to a group of 15 residents at the home of a constituent on the afternoon of last Feb. 23, soliciting them to support him in the elections. Nine of the 15 present were non-NKP members.

"Preliminary probe showed Pak committed the act of pre-electioneering in breach of the election law. The prosecution will shortly decide whether to prosecute him," the source said.

Pak insists he is innocent, asserting that he understood all the 15 residents present were party members.

The election law bans would-be candidates from engaging in electioneering like holding speech sessions or offering foods or any other giveaways to people other than the members of the political parties they belong to before a formal election campaign period.

ROK: Prosecution Starts Probe of Election Irregularities

SK1904051096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0447 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP) — The Prosecutor-General's Office announced Friday investigations into alleged election irregularities, and indicated that the questioning of suspected election law violators had already started.

The Taejon district prosecutor's office summoned two opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD) candidates who were successful in the general elections last Friday — Yi In-ku and Kim Chil-hwan — for questioning, the announcement said.

Yi was suspected of having praised his fellow ULD candidate Kim Hyon-uk and defamed his rival Democratic

Party candidate Kim Won-ung in a speech at a reception to congratulate Kim Hyon-uk on his book publication.

Kim hyon-uk was successful but Kim Won-ung failed in the recent general elections.

Kim Chil-hwan was also suspected of having slandered his rival ruling New Korea Party candidate Nam Chaetu.

The prosecution has thus summoned three successful candidates for questioning about alleged election irregularities, including Kim Il-yun who carried Kyongju-A District, North Kyongsang Province, as independent in the recent election, according to the announcement.

The prosecutors office has booked 1,103, including some 110 successful candidates, for investigations into their alleged election law violations.

The investigations will sort out those who will be formally indicted with physical detention on charges of violating the related election laws, and the prosecution will demand a fine of over 1 million won for those successful candidates who are indicted on charges of election irregularities so that they will lose their parliamentary seats, officials said.

ROK: Election Commission To Probe Campaign Spending

*SK1904061696 Seoul YONHAP in English
0601 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP) — The Central Election Management Commission (CEMC) said Friday that it plans to closely examine the campaign expenditures of every 15th National Assembly candidate.

The permanent committee members and directors of the campaign watchdog's city and provincial branches held a joint conference Friday afternoon to clarify the decision to investigate the campaign spending of every candidate without exception.

The CEMC instructed its city and provincial branches to examine the accounts of the candidates as closely as possible and refer those who spent more than allowed by law or violated the election law in some other way to the prosecutors office between May 11 and June 30.

The CEMC decided to send a national tax administration official to each of its branches for an in-depth investigation of campaign spending.

The opposition parties complained after the April 11 general elections that there were many instances of corrupt campaigning, and President Kim Yong-sam said Thursday that he had instructed the prosecutors

office to thoroughly investigate all allegations of corrupt campaigning.

He told Kim Tae-chung, president of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics, that a considerable number of newly elected lawmakers are expected to lose their parliamentary seats due to election law violations.

ROK: Kim Yong-sam, Kim Chong-pil To Cooperate on Security

*SK1904082696 Seoul YONHAP in English
0803 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam and opposition leader Kim Chong-pil agreed Friday to cope with national security and North Korean issues on a suprapartisan basis.

The two leaders reached the accord at a two-hour Chongwadae [presidential offices] luncheon meeting, during which the president briefed the conservative opposition United Liberal Democrat [ULD] leader about his summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton Tuesday and proposed four-country talks to discuss a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, Presidential Spokesman Yun Yo-chun said.

When asked by the ULD leader to deal fairly with suspected law violators during last week's general elections, President Kim was quoted as responding, "To set an example to the general public, violations of law by lawmakers, either ruling or opposition, will be thoroughly investigated and dealt with fairly."

As to the government's drive to right the wrongs of the past, Kim reportedly maintained, "The drive will be carried out resolutely according to law in order to demonstrate that law and justice are alive in the land."

The president expressed his opposition to a constitutional amendment that would result in a Cabinet system of government as advocated by Kim Chong-pil.

"A cabinet system of government is inadequate for our country, because it might cause political corruption, and because the state needs strong leadership in light of the inter-Korean confrontation," Kim was quoted as saying. "Today is the anniversary of the April 19 revolution. A cabinet system has already been tested and failed. How would we look if we tried that type of system again?"

With regard to the management of the upcoming 15th National Assembly, the two leaders agreed to strive to create a political climate that will assure citizens of a comfortable life by putting an end to such old-fashioned political activities as rostrum occupation by

force and sit-in demonstrations, to usher in future-oriented politics.

Referring to the controversial financing of his 1992 presidential campaign, Yun quoted the president as saying, "You should know better than anyone else about the situation faced by the (now-defunct) Democratic Liberal Party. I've never met former president No Tae-u since he seceded from the party. And circumstances did not permit me to receive financial assistance from him."

President Kim refused to interpret the NKP's failure to secure an absolute majority in parliament at face value, claiming, "I understand that most of the successful independent candidates who unsuccessfully sought our party's nomination have now expressed a desire to join our party."

Stressing the need for dialogue between government and opposition leaders to tackle pressing issues facing the nation, the ULD leader said the ruling party's failure to retain a majority in the recent parliamentary elections was a call by voters for the two camps to engage in such dialogue.

Returning to his party office from Chongwadae, Kim Chong-pil said that President Kim had agreed on the need for what he called "dialogue politics."

"I asked the president to spare no efforts to make parliament a political forum where both the ruling and opposition parties can have productive discussions," he added.

He quoted the president as telling him that North Korea is in a "more worrisome situation than is generally believed," and that the government is prepared to deal with any developments in the North.

The ULD leader said he told the president that he would strive to introduce a cabinet system of government as soon as possible, though admitting that it would realistically be difficult for the time being.

Kim Chong-pil also noted the left-leaning movements of some student activists, to which a concerned President Kim Yong-sam said he would instruct law enforcement agencies to take appropriate measures so people would not worry.

On the recent parliamentary elections, the ULD leader charged that the elections were conducted unfairly, with the ruling party having advantage over opposition parties, though they were run cleanly in some aspects.

"Even today, the prosecution is defaming successful opposition candidates, especially those from the ULD, in the elections, and I recommended that the government thoroughly settle the aftermath of the elections as soon

as possible for the sake of political and social stability," he added.

ROK: Kim Tae-chung Meets Reporters Over Plans for NCNP

SK1804034296 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kim Tae-chung, president of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), has said that he plans to appoint a senior vice president to act as party president in the Assembly and take care of ordinary party business.

While having dinner with local press reporters Tuesday, he explained that since he doesn't have an Assembly seat, the party needs someone who can act as the party president in the Assembly. He also revealed his wish to appoint a fresh and competent figure for the newly introduced post.

As to the appointment of the NCNP's secretary-general, he said one of the party's prominent figures who failed in Thursday's polls will be considered, taking the responsibility of managing the party's reorganization across the nation.

Unlike the post of secretary-general, which the party president appoints, the floor leader will be elected among party lawmakers. A lot of lawmakers, including Secretary-General Rep. Cho Sun-hyong and incumbent and former floor leaders Sin Ki-ha and Kim Tae-sik, respectively, are likely to jump into the race for the whip.

NCNP spokesman Pak Chi-won said, "Party president Kim is still gathering the opinions of party leaders regarding the formation of the new party lineup. Nothing has been decided yet."

"At the rally with the successful candidates next week," Pak said, "a floor leader will be chosen. And a shuffle of key party post-holders is likely to follow."

The NCNP's nine major post-holders, including secretary-general Cho Sun-hyong, submitted their resignations Tuesday to party president Kim to give him more room to form the new lineup.

ROK: NKP Chairman Kim Yun-hwan 'Busiest' Since Elections

SK1804043396 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chairman Kim Yun-hwan of the ruling New Korea Party must be the busiest party leader since the party scored a "political victory" in Thursday's general elections.

Kim, who returned to Seoul from his electoral district of Kumi-Sonsan in Kyongsangpuk-to Sunday, is meeting political heavyweights in the party in a series of separate gatherings.

He met Yi Han-tong, outgoing vice-speaker of the National Assembly, and Pak Chan-chong, former NKP campaign manager for the metropolitan area, Tuesday and Wednesday. Kim will also soon meet Yi Hoe-chang, ex-chief campaign manager of the ruling party, former home minister Choe Hyong-u and former prime minister Yi Hong-ku separately.

Drawing attention is the fact that those he has been meeting are all presidential hopefuls discussed in and outside the party.

Such a series of get-togethers will continue until next week, NKP spokesman Son Hak-kyu said.

In the meeting with Pak, according to party sources, Kim stressed intraparty harmony and unity. The two also shared the opinion that the party should humbly accept the election results as the mandate of the people, the sources said.

A close aide to Kim also said the meetings have no political meaning because they were designed for Kim to express his appreciation for their hard work during the campaign period.

But observers said Kim could have invited them all at once if the occasions were in fact only to express his gratitude.

Observers said the meetings were rather deeply connected with his future course of action as the chairman of the party, particularly concerning the presidential nomination in the post-election ruling party.

"Kim is now seeking a partner to make a deal about his future status in the post-President Kim era," said an NKP official.

"Though he is referred to as one of the presidential hopefuls, he is said to be ready to make concessions to the most potential standard bearer of the party if he survives the impending reorganization of the party leadership," the official said.

Another party official also said his recent move showed the four-term lawmaker had begun his job as a king-maker, for which he has been renowned. He played a decisive role in making No Tae-u and Kim Yong-sam presidents in 1987 and 1992, respectively.

ROK: NKP Likely To Seek Merger With Opposition DP

SK1804060696 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ruling New Korea Party [NKP] is likely to seek a merger with the opposition Democratic Party [DP] and court independents to form a majority in the 15th National Assembly.

If the National Congress for New Politics joins forces with the Democratic Party, the ruling NKP will form a coalition with the other party in a bid to win the Presidential election next year, said, president of the Yoido Institute, Dr. Yun Yong-o, as a guest speaker at a Seoul Rotary Club meeting at Hotel Shilla yesterday.

Heading the ruling party's think tank, he told a gathering of some 40 Rotary members that the election results will add steam to President Kim Yong-sam's self-proclaimed mandate of "reform amid stability." The NKP will soon announce leadership reshuffles to prevent President Kim Yong-sam from becoming a virtual lame duck during the remainder of his term. Dr. Yun added that Yi Hoe-chang and Pak Chan-chong, two party members widely regarded as prime candidates for next year's presidential bid, will not openly seek to become party candidates in the near future.

The former professor of political science said he believes that the party's presidential candidate will be decided upon through fair competition, instead of being handpicked by President Kim. He claimed that nomination through fair competition is not only acceptable in the eyes of the public, but also necessary to ensure democracy in the party.

Meanwhile, Yun did not rule out the possibility that two factions within the ruling NKP, namely the reform-minded group and the conservative group, might engage in internal feuding over the control of the party leadership and nomination of the party's presidential candidate.

Yun also said statistics show that people now support chief campaign manager Yi Hoe-chang more than any other candidates, but there are too many variables that can tip the scale.

With regard to the possibility of merging the ruling NKP with the opposition Democratic Party, which failed to win the minimum 20 seats required to obtain status as a floor negotiation bloc, Dr. Yun emphasized that even though the minor opposition party harshly criticized the ruling NKP during the elections, the NKP and the DP saw eye to eye on a range of issues, including the urgent need to push reform to clear the society and political

circles of corruption and put an end to the political generation of the three Kims.

In a rare, favorable gesture toward the DP, Yun also conceded that the DP was made up of reform-minded politicians relatively free from corruption. He added that opposition parties in Korea consistently attack the ruling party because otherwise the public would perceive that they were collaborating with the ruling party. He said in private meetings with DP leaders, he has found the two parties shared much common ground.

As to the chances of the United Liberal Democrats' party leader Kim Chong-pil's successfully pushing a constitutional amendment, Yun said the attempt to introduce the Parliamentary Cabinet system requires at least two-thirds of the Assembly to endorse the proposal. Given the total number of opposition party members, such a change is next to impossible said Dr. Yun. The president of the Yoido Institute said that a coalition between Kim Chong-pil and Kim Tae-chung is unlikely since their stances are too wide apart on numerous issues.

ROK: Stumbling Blocks to Kim Chong-pil's Goals Analyzed

SK1804064196 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 18 Apr 96 p 2

[By staff reporter Sin Yong-pae]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kim Chong-pil was determined to stand alone when he was forced to leave the ruling party early last year in the face of President Kim Yong-sam's hint that at 70, he was too old to become his successor.

Kim Chong-pil attained that goal when his opposition United Liberal Democrats swept mayoral and gubernatorial posts in his home turf of the Chungchong region in local elections in June last year.

Before the crucial general elections last week, he vowed that his party will make a second take-off by winning enough parliamentary seats to exercise significant influence in the National Assembly.

He appeared to have achieved that goal as well when his party became the second largest opposition party with 50 seats and the ruling party failed to retain its majority in the 299-member National Assembly.

"He will try to make the most of his party's ability to tilt the balance of power either toward the ruling party or the main opposition party in the National Assembly," an analyst said.

Kim is also expected to attempt to expand his political clout by drawing in independents and other opposition

members under his slogan that his party advocates the parliamentary system of government and represents conservatives.

At the same time, he will surely try to remain in the center stage of politics through case-by-case alliances with either the ruling party or the main opposition party.

Despite his political boost in the elections, however, it is still uncertain whether he will be able to attain his final goal—to win the presidency or the premiership after pulling off constitutional revision in favor of a parliamentary system of government.

He has sought to change the Constitution from the current presidential system of government to a parliamentary one, in which the prime minister controls the cabinet while the president remains as a ceremonial head of state.

But although Kim attained his goal in the elections, he may encounter many obstacles on the road lying ahead.

First of all, his party's power broker role will be weakened if the ruling party gains control of the National Assembly by recruiting some independents or opposition members.

In the elections, the ruling party performed better than had been expected and won a near majority of National Assembly seats.

Moreover, Kim may experience much difficulty in promoting a political alliance with the main opposition party, led by Kim Tae-chung, to hold the ruling party in check.

A political scientist said the possible formation of a united front between these two Kims, even if it falls short of a merger of their parties which together have 129 legislative seats, would also pose a great threat to the ruling camp.

"But it is doubtful whether the two Kims' coalition can be realized because the two parties' political stances are so different," said Yun Yong-o, president of Yoido Institute, a think tank associated with the ruling party.

Another stumbling block to Kim Chong-pil's path toward the constitutional revision lies inside his party.

He is facing growing demands by some party leaders from Taegu that he share his control of the party with them.

On Monday, Pak Chol-on, who helped the party make a strong showing in the nation's third largest city, publicly demanded that the party be led by several leaders.

Kim also may have to find ways to survive public calls for a "generational change" in politics, which gained momentum through the elections.

Voters gave more than 40 percent of the National Assembly seats to newcomers, an indication that they want new politics to be led by new political faces.

Besides, Kim needs to rise above regional support if he is to realize his dream of becoming the top leader of the nation.

Although his party became larger through the elections, it failed to draw nationwide support. It suffered an election debacle particularly in Seoul, Kyonggi Province and Kangwon Province, where no party commands regional support.

But for now, Kim Chong-pil appears to be standing on the peak of his political watershed dividing potentiality and limitation.

ROK: Fair Trade Commission Officials Reportedly Accepted Bribes

SK1804025096 (Internet) The Digital Chosun Ilbo WWW in English 1225 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Prosecutor's office confirmed Wednesday, that Chong Chae-ho, a director of the Fair Trade Commission, accepted bribes of 30 million won from the Chosun Beer Brewery which produces Hite Beer. The Prosecutor's office asked for a warrant for his arrest on the same day. Yun Kun-chik, another official of the Fair Trade Commission, is also under suspicion of taking bribes of 20 million won and the Prosecutor's office has requested a warrant for his arrest as well. Two directors of the Chosun Beer Brewery are under suspicion of offering bribes to the officials and have been indicted by the Prosecutor's office.

Through the investigation of Chong and Yun, it was discovered that another director of the Fair Trade Commission, Yi Chong-hwa, also accepted bribes from the Chosun Beer Brewery amounting to 5 million won. Yi was previously arrested and indicted March 13 on another count of accepting bribes from the Han-sol group.

ROK To Set Up Industrial Complex in Najin-Sonbong Region

SK1804090896 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 17 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK Land Development Corporation has decided to build an exclusive industrial complex for ROK companies in the Najin-Sonbong region with an area of 300,000 pyong [one pyong equals about 3.3 square meters]. This complex will be

equipped with water supply facilities and waste water disposal facilities, electricity, communications, roads, and harbors. And, the corporation is consulting relevant authorities on a timetable.

The corporation said on 16 April that it plans to contact as soon as possible the North Korean Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation, an organization in charge of investment in the Najin-Sonbong region; reach an agreement on leasing land and establishing an industrial complex; and move 200 to 300 small- and medium-sized South Korean businesses into the industrial complex by the year 2000. The corporation also said that it will take two and a half to three years to build the complex.

A high-ranking official at the Construction and Transportation Ministry said: "The corporation plans to substantially help those small- and medium-size companies do business in the Najin-Sonbong region by providing them with administrative assistance in establishing companies, building and operating plants."

Once the Land Development Corporation sets up an industrial complex, the infrastructure of the complex and the credibility of a government-invested corporation will boost the confidence and expedite the advance of small- and medium-sized ROK businesses into the region. Also, we can also expect that construction companies and relevant firms, including the Korea Electricity Power Corporation and Korea Telecom, will be able to participate in the construction of the industrial complex.

In the meantime, the land corporation is building an ROK-Russia industrial complex with an area of one million pyong in Nakhodka, Russia. And, it plans to sell 300,000 pyong of the complex around 1999.

ROK Prime Minister Attends Broadcasting Foundation Inauguration

SK1704114096 Seoul YONHAP in English 1122 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP) — A reception marking the inauguration of the International Broadcasting Foundation was held at the Seoul Press Center Wednesday afternoon with Prime Minister Yi Su-song and about 200 other well-wishers attending.

In a congratulatory speech, Prime Minister Yi said the new foundation would serve to further uplift the nation's image abroad by correctly introducing things about Korea to foreign peoples through foreign language broadcasting programs.

The foundation will operate "World Channel" for foreigners residing in Korea and "Korea Channel" specializing in news about Korea for overseas audience.

It will also exchange various broadcasting and visual products with foreign countries, export broadcasting items to the abroad, and support the production of commercial broadcasting items.

Among the reception attendees were Information Minister O In-hwan, Vice Information Minister Yu Se-chun, YONHAP News Agency President Hyon So-hwan, Broadcasting Commission Chairman Kim Chang-yol, KBS President Hong Tu-pyo and SEOUL SINMUN President Son Chu-hwan.

ROK To Apply To Join Berne Copyright Protection Convention

SK1804033496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0134 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP) — South Korea plans to join the berne convention for the protection of literary and artistic works, which calls for copyright protection worldwide, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday.

South Korea will present an application to the world intellectual property right organization by the end of May so that the convention can take effect within three months in accordance with convention regulations, the spokesman said.

Last December, the National Assembly passed a copyright law that will take effect July 1 this year, paving the way for the country to join the convention.

The convention calls for the worldwide protection of intellectual property rights for up to 50 years from the death of authors, although the copyrights have not specifically been registered in signatories to the convention.

Launched by 10 European countries including Britain, Germany and Switzerland in 1886, the convention currently has 117 signatories.

ROK: Ceremonies Commemorate Anniversary of April 19 Revolution

SK1904031796 Seoul YONHAP in English
0239 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP) — A ceremony observing the 36th anniversary of the April 19 revolution was held Friday morning at the April 19 National Cemetery in northern Seoul.

It was attended by leaders of the three branches of government including Prime Minister Yi Su-song, members of April 19 revolution-related organizations, and some 1,200 citizens and students.

In an address delivered at the ceremony, Prime Minister Yi said, "the April 19 revolution was a resolute civil rights movement and a great revolution staged by democratic citizens that did not condone political power which unjustly infringed on the freedom and rights of citizens."

Yi called upon the general public "to consolidate national strength by recalling the ideology of liberal democracy spawned by the April 19 revolution, and further strengthen the will to establish a unified nation and a core country of the world in the next century."

Separate from the main ceremony, members of various social organizations and political parties, both ruling and opposition, visited the April 19 cemetery in succession Friday to lay wreathes and burn incense before the tombs of those sacrificed in the student revolution.

Approximately 8,000 students and citizens came to the national cemetery Thursday, the eve of the anniversary, to pay their respects, according to the police. Another 10,000 are expected to do the same Friday.

Similar anniversary ceremonies were held across the country Friday.

Burma

Burma: Article Refutes U.S. Human Rights Allegations

BK1804154396 Rangoon KYEMON in Burmese
8 Apr 96 p 5

[Article by correspondent Thetshay: "To Show the Character of American Human Rights"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The United States and the Western nations have been creating problems and causing disturbances for other countries by using their human rights yardstick, which has been rejected by the world. The Western groups — Amnesty International, Asia Watch, and Article-19 — have been dancing to the CIA's tune with their allegations of other countries' human rights violations.

The worst deed is the U.S. State Department's annual report on countries where human rights are violated. This report is always furiously refuted by the alleged countries. [passage omitted on reactions of China and Malaysia]

The U.S. State Department's 1995 annual report on human rights, as usual, included allegations of human rights abuses in Myanmar [Burma]. Although the Myanmar Government has repeatedly asserted that there are no political prisoners in Myanmar and that they are only those convicted for breaking existing laws, the U.S. Government's report noted allegations of torture and mistreatment of political prisoners in jails. Similar allegations have been reported yearly. [passage omitted on inmates in America]

The annual U.S. State Department's human rights report is "sheer concoction" because it is just an amendment of the previous fabrication with a correction here and there. Despite the surrender of 15 insurgent groups and the rays of peace emerging from the horizon, the report still accuses the Defense Services of forcing the people to work as porters for the military.

At one time the Western groups encouraged the ethnic insurgency, asserting that they were fighters for independence and democracy. Now the West is maligning those that have returned to the legal fold after realizing the genuine goodwill of the state to work for regional development. They are now accusing the surrendered insurgents of committing atrocities against the local people.

During 1959, 60, and 61 the South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, Thaketa, Thuwanna, and Yankin housing projects were implemented in Yangon [Rangoon] to fulfill housing needs. From 1989, 90, and 91 until today new satellite towns — Dagon Myothit, Hlaingtharyar,

and Shwepyithar — have been established to enable the people to own land and houses. Apartment blocks have also been initiated in Yangon to move squatters from huts to high-rise buildings. The United States pessimistically viewed these actions as forced relocation. [passage omitted on homelessness in America]

The U.S. State Department has issued the report unaware of the development of border regions, not noticing the achievement of peace, and disregarding the success of the antinarcotics activities with the total surrender of U Khun Sa. They seem to be very anxious to see a developed and peaceful Myanmar.

There are full human rights and democracy in Myanmar in accordance with Myanmar [Burmese] culture and tradition. It was not long ago that women in America and England were able to vote. It is a common practice in Myanmar, where women also enjoy women's rights too. This is quite evident from that fact that [the government] is showing a blind eye to a woman — one who hardly counts as a true Myanmar woman — who is violating the country's laws at will under external influence. The American report also alleged that the Myanmar Government has put a restraint on the freedom of speech and the freedom of press. [passage omitted on press and media restrictions in England and America]

In summary, the U.S. State Department's annual human rights report shows the following:

1. Their allegations against Myanmar were made blindly
2. They cannot bear to see a stable, peaceful, developed, and modern Myanmar
3. They are discouraging the remaining insurgent groups from returning to the legal fold by undermining the surrendered groups.
4. They are instigating a religious conflict by disregarding the existing freedom of belief
5. Their allegations about human rights are incorrect
6. They are exerting pressure to disrupt the peace and tranquility of Myanmar in order to install a puppet administration
7. They are blatantly interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs.

Myanmar with its 135 indigenous races is striving unitedly for the emergence of a modern, developed, and peaceful nation with three main national objectives in view. I have revealed the character of U.S. human rights in order to present the blooming Myanmar style democracy, human rights, people's rights, and citizen's rights free from the influence of Western-style democracy and human rights.

Burma: Suu Kyi Addresses UNHRC News Conference via Videotape

BK1904053996 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 17 Apr 96

[Transcript of a videotaped speech by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi played at a UN Human Rights Commission news conference in Geneva on 17 April]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is a matter of much satisfaction to be able to participate in this press conference at a time when the United Nations Commission for Human Rights [UNHCR] is in this session. It is time the world knew what is going on in Burma today. It has come to the point when we have to worry, not simply about the violations of human rights in Burma, but about the lawless activities of the authorities. The chairman of the NLD [National League for Democracy], U Aung Shwe, has been moved to write to the chairman of the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council], General Than Shwe, to complain about the way in which the authorities are using lawless methods to repress and to harass the members and supporters of the NLD.

There are those who argue that the concept of human rights is not applicable to all cultures. We in the NLD believe that human rights are of universal relevance. But even those who do not believe in human rights must certainly agree that the rule of law is most important. Without the rule of law there can be no peace, either in a nation, a region or in throughout the world. In Burma at the moment there is no rule of law. Unless there is the rule of law there can be no peace or justice in this country.

We believe in self-reliance and we depend on the strength of the people of Burma to achieve their own goals. At the same time we also appreciate the moral support and practical help of the international community. In this day and age nobody can afford to ignore the opinions of the world around us. Because of that we would like to appeal to the international community to take a greater interest in what is going on in Burma.

In the letter which U Aung Shwe wrote to the chairman of SLORC, he cited five specific case which proved that the authorities were behaving in a lawless fashion towards the NLD and its supporters. Yet these cases are merely the tip of an iceberg of harassment and repression that is going on throughout the whole country.

The international community has two duties with regard to Burma at the moment. The first one is to focus on and to protest against the lawless activities of the authorities. The second one is to do everything possible

to implement the terms of General Assembly resolution with regard to the human rights situation in Burma.

The General Assembly resolution calls for the restoration of democracy in line with the will of the people as expressed through the elections of 1990. It is now almost six full years since these elections were held. In the process of these elections the people of Burma made it quite clear what kind of government they wanted. It is time that the world respected the will of the people of Burma. It is no use saying that Asian people are not interested in democracy when the people of Burma, who are of course Asians, have expressed so very clearly that what they want is a democratic government that will guarantee their rights fully.

Any move to ignore or to set aside the results of the elections is not only to insult the will of the people of Burma, but also to insult the will of the international community as expressed through the General Assembly resolution.

If there is to be political progress in Burma concrete steps must be taken to implement the will of the people as expressed through the elections of 1990. There are those who are prepared to pretend the elections never existed, and that the will of the people has not been made known to all concerned. We cannot condone such an attempt to set aside what the Burmese people see as a very clear expression of their aspirations for the future of their nation. The international community should take firm steps to ensure that the authorities in Burma start the process of recognising the results of the elections of 1990, a process that is long overdue.

At the moment there is danger that those who believe economic reforms will bring political progress to Burma are unaware of the difficulties in the way of democratisation. Economics and politics cannot be separated, and economic reforms alone cannot bring democratisation to Burma. Moreover it is not possible that any kind of economic reform can succeed in a country where there is no rule of law. For that reason we call upon the international community to insist the authorities in Burma do their utmost to institute the rule of law in Burma as soon as possible.

So far the authorities have chosen to ignore our call. However, we believe that one day we will have to solve our problems through dialogue.

The General Assembly resolution also calls for a substantive political dialogue between the authorities, the NLD and other political organisations and various ethnic groups in Burma. The NLD is ready for dialogue at any time. But that does not mean that we are prepared to sit and let the authorities act as they wish against our

members and supporters. We have to protest against injustice and lawlessness. It is our duty, not only as a party that represents the aspirations of the democratic forces of Burma, but as a party that believes in justice and peace throughout the world.

Our request to the international community is in fact a quite simple one. We would simply like them to be aware of the fact that the situation in Burma is a threat not only to its own people, but to the region and to the world. Injustice and lack of peace in the country means injustice and lack of peace for the rest of the world because it threatens peace and justice everywhere else. We would like to remind those who are simply looking at the economic benefits that they hope to reap from Burma today that they are working against their own long-term interest and the long-term interests of the international community in general. To flout the will of the international community is to promote instability and dissension throughout the world.

We are confident that we shall achieve our goal of building a genuine democratic state in Burma. However, we also wish the international community to take part in our struggle, and to be supportive of our endeavours. We would like the whole world to join us in our call for justice in Burma and for the quick implementation of the terms of the General Assembly resolution with regard to human rights in Burma.

I would like to end this statement simply with a words of thanks to all those who have made it possible for me to participate in this press conference.

Thank you.

Burma: SLORC's Conduct Toward Suu Kyi Seen as Antidemocratic

BK1904052595 Bangkok THE NATION in English
19 Apr 96 p A2

[Report by Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Burmese junta has taken a tougher stand against the pro-democracy movement by officially rejecting the possibility of any future meetings with popular opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) said any dialogue with the Nobel peace prize laureate would put her on "an equal footing with the [military] government".

According to the Slorc, the National Convention - whose members were hand-picked by the military leaders - was the forum in which political leaders, including Suu Kyi, could engage in dialogue.

The announcement was made in response to queries posed by Alvaro de Soto, a representative of UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, during his meeting with Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw on April 4 in New York.

The response has confirmed the international community's fear that the Slorc has no intention of holding any more dialogues with Suu Kyi, who was under house arrest in Rangoon for six years. Slorc leaders met with her twice before her release last July.

Butrus-Ghali was asked by the UN General Assembly to continue discussions with the Slorc to assist implementation of the UN resolution on Burma and the country's efforts to achieve "national reconciliation".

"The government's position on the question of dialogue with political leaders, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, continues to be that the National Convention is the forum for such a dialogue," Butrus-Ghali quoted Ohn Gyaw as telling de Soto, the assistant secretary-general for political affairs. "While messages between the Government and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi could be and have been conveyed through contacts, dialogue with her was not acceptable since this implied that she would be treated on an equal footing with the government," the Burmese minister was quoted as saying.

Butrus-Ghali recorded the conversation between his representative and Ohn Gyaw in a report he is submitting to the UN Commission on Human Rights, a copy of which was obtained by THE NATION. The Commission in Geneva is debating the human rights situation in Burma.

In his report, Butrus-Ghali expressed regret that the Slorc did not open "substantive dialogue" with Suu Kyi, other political leaders and ethnic groups.

He said he appreciated Ohn Gyaw's travelling to New York for the meeting with de Soto, but regretted it did not take place in Burma where the UN representative could see what developments had been made and have in-depth talks with "the highest [Slorc] leadership echelons" and other politicians.

During the meeting, Ohn Gyaw also informed de Soto of Rangoon's position on other issues including the development on the drafting of a new constitution, political freedom in Burma and access to prisons by the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross.

According to the Burmese minister, the National Convention, which began its work in January 1993, was to draft constitutional guidelines.

"The actual writing of the Constitution would be undertaken by legal experts provided by the government in addition to the people designated by the National Convention," said Butrus-Ghali's report. The convention would determine whether the Constitution would eventually be approved by referendum or some other form of popular vote," it added.

In the six-page report, Ohn Gyaw was said to point out that the Slorc expected all armed ethnic groups to "lay down their arms when the Constitution was adopted" and that these groups would only do so with a "disciplined government, not a civilian government, at the helm.

"Thereafter, the military did not intend to form a political party, but would continue to take part in the political life of the nation," the report stated.

In reply to a question about penalties imposed on a number of inmates in Insein Jail for allegedly passing information on prison conditions to a UN special human rights rapporteur, Ohn Gyaw said he was not aware of that particular case.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Malaysia: Government Condemns Israel's Attacks on Lebanon

BK1804100296 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Malaysia condemns the military action taken by Israel against the people of Lebanon. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said in a statement that the continued attacks on Lebanese towns and villages constitute a violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and are in direct defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel to unconditionally withdraw from Lebanese territory.

He said this (extremely) indiscriminate act causing unwanted destruction of property and loss of innocent lives threatened to derail the peace process in West Asia. In view of this Malaysia strongly urges Israel to immediately cease these attacks. Such military adventurism will only help perpetuate the cycle of violence in the region.

Malaysia: Foreign Minister Comments on Nigerian Situation

BK1804110896 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, which includes Malaysia, can pro-

pose sanctions against Nigeria if the country refuses to allow in a mission to discuss its return to democracy.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the Action Group will meet for the second time in London by the end of this month and whatever proposals for actions to be taken against Nigeria will be forwarded to the next Commonwealth Head of Governments Meeting, CHOGM.

He told reporters this after receiving the Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku. Datuk Abdullah said the Commonwealth countries view seriously the situation in Nigeria and the hardship caused to its people by the Nigerian regime.

Malaysia: Two Groups of Vietnamese Boat People Repatriated

BK1804091096 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 3 in Malay 0530 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] More than 500 Vietnamese boat people left the Sungai Besi transit camp this morning. This is the beginning of the last stage to send refugees back to their homeland. A total 2,399 boat people are still in the transit camps in Sungai Besi and Kerayong. The camps are expected to close down by the end of May.

The first group of Vietnamese boat people landed in the country 22 years ago.

A group of 317 Vietnamese boat people left the Sungai Besi transit camp for the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) port at Tanjung Gelang in Kuantan this morning. This group is made up of 165 men, 107 women, and 45 children. They will board the KD [royal ship] Indera Pura at 1600 hours [0800 GMT] this afternoon and are scheduled to arrive in Vung Tau port on 20 April.

Malaysia is the first country in the region to send back the boat people by ship. [passage omitted]

Another group of [word indistinct] Vietnamese boat people left for Ho Chi Minh City by Vietnam Air at 0830 hours this morning. These include some of the refugees that have signed up with the Voluntary Repatriation Program, VOLREP. Of these, 44 are children under the age of 12. To date 1,689 boat people have signed up under the VOLREP.

Malaysia: Official on Repatriation of Vietnamese Refugees

BK1904093496 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 19 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuantan, Thursday [18 April] — About 1,300 Vietnamese refugees who are reluctant to return to their country voluntarily will be repatriated by three Royal Malaysian Navy [RMN] vessels in three batches beginning in June.

Rear Admiral Datuk Yaacob Daud, director of the National Security Board's Federal Task Force for Vietnamese Refugees, said they will be repatriated in stages in accordance with the Orderly Repatriation Program (ORP). The Malaysian Government, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Vietnamese Government previously agreed that the repatriation of the refugees would be carried out in four stages. [passage omitted]

Speaking at a news conference at the RMN Tanjung Gelang Naval Base near here this afternoon, the admiral said: "Vietnamese refugees who are reluctant to return to their country through the Voluntary Repatriation Program (Volrep) will be repatriated by RMN vessels. The others will be repatriated by air."

Earlier, he witnessed the repatriation of the first batch of 317 Vietnamese refugees.

Yaacob said Malaysia is the first temporary transit center to undertake the repatriation of Vietnamese refugees using Navy vessels. This method is considered effective and economical. Heng Kong and the Philippines are expected to follow suit.

Meanwhile, Yaacob said he did not expect his personnel to be involved in the repatriation of refugees who are unwilling to return to their country voluntarily.

Cambodia**Cambodia: Hun Sen Meets New U.S. Ambassador**

BK1804133496 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Meeting Kenneth Quinn, the new U.S. ambassador to Cambodia, on Monday morning (15 April), Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister, said that rural development was the best way to settle all the problems related to the Khmer Rouge. Samdech Hun Sen stressed that he had spent 24 hours and more thinking about national development. Samdech Hun Sen added that the appointment of Kenneth Quinn as ambas-

sador to Cambodia showed the United States is paying attention to Cambodia. Through the new ambassador, Samdech Hun Sen thanked the U.S. Government for the humanitarian aid it had just given for the Khmer Rouge group that recently returned to the national fold in Aoral District. The aid of U.S.\$300,000 included food, materials, mosquito nets, blankets, shelters, and clothing.

Kenneth Quinn told the second prime minister that his appointment to Cambodia was the highest point in his diplomatic life and that he regarded the reconstruction of Cambodia as the most important task.

The ambassador agreed with the samdech's good views on the building and development of the rural economy. He also thanked the samdech for Cambodia's cooperation in the search for the U.S. soldiers missing in action in the past war and the cooperation that H.E. Sar Kheng had given in capturing the smuggler of fake currency. He also expressed delight that the Cambodian Government had signed a business agreement with a major U.S. electricity company.

Mr. Quinn stressed that Cambodia is now at peace, thus our future task is to thwart poverty through national development. He promised that one of his important tasks was to help to spread information about Cambodia's peace process to urge the investors in the United States to come to invest in Cambodia as a means of helping to quickly restore and develop Cambodia's economy.

Cambodia: King Leaves for Official Visit to France

BK1804133396 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His majesty the king of the Kingdom of Cambodia [KoC] and Supreme Queen Norodom Monineat Sihanouk left Phnom Penh by special plane at 1600 in the afternoon of 18 April to pay a 13-day state visit from 18 to 30 April to the French Republic.

This visit is made at the invitation of His Excellency [H.E.] French President Jacques Chirac. Accompanying their majesties the king and queen are: Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister, and Princess Norodom Marie Ranariddh; H.E. Loy Simchheang, first vice chairman of the National Assembly; Oknha Kong Sam-ol, deputy prime minister and minister of the royal palace; H.E. Ieng Muli, minister of information; and H.E. Ing Huot, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation.

Seeing the king and queen off at Pochentong international airport were Samdech Chea Sim, chairman of the

National Assembly, and his wife; Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister, and Madam Bunrati Hun Sen; H.E. Sar Kheng, deputy prime minister and co-minister of the interior; H.E. Ing Kiet, deputy prime minister and minister of public works and transport; and members of the National Assembly, members of government, officials from all departments, and various diplomatic corps attached to the KoC. [passage omitted extolling France for aid to Cambodia]

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Reject Australian Statement on Landmines

BK1904073096 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Apr 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Australia — one of the goonish allies, which annually funds the purchase of weapons, ammunition, and hundreds of thousands of mines for the two heads to fan the flames of the communist Vietnamese war to kill Cambodians — on 17 April shamelessly blared that it would stop using landmines and so on. As for its out-and-out two-headed lackeys in Phnom Penh, they also painstakingly echoed its statement on landmines. They have employed the method of thief crying stop thief countless of times.

1. They have repeatedly made earthshaking declarations worldwide that they will stop using landmines.
2. They have sent their men to clear landmines.
3. However, while one hand removes mines from their areas of interests, the other plants explosives in rice fields and orchards. This prevents the Cambodian people from production activities, picking vines, and digging for cassavas to soothe their hunger.

They lay landmines to counter the Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces [CNRF]. In particular, for Australia, while it shouts that the use of landmines should be ended, hundreds of thousands of its landmines marked with a cross are sent to Cambodia every year. These have been planted in the central, north, northwest, and west of Cambodia. As a matter of fact, in the current 18th dry season, in attacks on the positions of the two-headed troops in Preah Vihear, Sisophon-Poipet, Route 10-Battambang, and other battlefields, the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea seized hundreds of Australian-made mines, each marked with a cross, from these areas. At present, especially since 1993, most of the antipersonnel mines found in Cambodia are those marked with a cross from Australia.

This is what is called thief crying stop thief. However, the Cambodian people know distinctly who the thieves are and will not mistakenly arrest someone else. The thieves the Cambodian people want to strike on the head are communist Vietnam; the U.S., French, and Australian allies; and their out-and-out two-headed lackeys, who are currently fuelling the Cambodian people-massacring communist Vietnamese war of aggression to starve and destroy the Cambodian nation and people.

Like the entire international community, the Cambodian people are clearly resolved that to terminate the use of landmines and to clear them completely, war should be brought to an end. Nevertheless, should the alliance, including the United States, France, and Australia, continue to buy and send tanks, cannons, armaments, ammunition, and millions of mines to Cambodia for the two heads to fuel the war, how can the landmine problem be solved? Nothing can be solved. Their calls to eliminate landmines are only aimed at preventing others from using them, specifically, the Cambodian people and the CNRF from striking their head, thus allowing them to continue killing the Cambodian nation and people with impunity.

Nonetheless, the Cambodian nation and people and the CNRF know this group of treacherous priests absolutely. They are the chief criminals sabotaging the Paris accord and opposing peace and Cambodian national reconciliation. They are all top war criminals. The Cambodian people agree in unison that only with the destruction of this group of warmongers and top war criminals can war be ended, and can the landmines as well as other small and big problems be resolved.

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Claim Attack on Toek Chhu Waterfall in Kampot

BK1904014196 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 16 April, the National Army combatants, in cooperation with 15 poor people from Kampot District, smashed and swept away the following three enemy company positions:

1. The position defending Toek Chhu waterfall in the west;
2. The position defending the waterfall in the north; and
3. The position stationed at the waterfall.

After a 30-minute attack, we smashed and swept away the three positions completely. We killed three enemy soldiers and wounded seven others. We destroyed four AK assault rifles, a B-40 rocket launcher, four military

camps, a residence of the Kampot provincial governor, 25 small cars, two big vehicles, 30 motorbikes, a big pump for pumping water to the provincial town, and three small pumps. We seized four small and two large ICOM field radios, a mobile phone, a Corola antenna, a pistol, two AK assault rifles, a B-40 rocket launcher, and some ammunition and war material.

Twenty of our poor people in Kampot and Chhuk Districts also managed to plant 23,370 assorted stakes and 21 homemade mines and dig 430 pits in the two localities.

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Confirm Death of 3d Division Commander

BK1904015896 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 10 April, a Toyota belonging to the two heads was going from Kambao to Russei in Varin District of Siem Reap Province when it completely exploded into flames after going over one of our mines. As a result, the commander of the 3d Division, Soem Pol, was killed and two soldiers wounded.

Indonesia

Indonesia: Dutch Official on East Timorese Youths Seeking Asylum

BK1804091596 Hong Kong AFP in English 0645 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JAKARTA, April 18 (AFP) — Three East Timorese youths who ducked into the Dutch embassy here early Thursday are seeking refuge in Portugal, a Dutch official said Thursday.

"There are three East Timorese youths in the Netherlands embassy now. They have asked for asylum in Portugal," Ernst Schmidt, first secretary at the embassy, told AFP.

He said embassy officials were in close contact with Indonesian authorities and the Foreign Ministry in the Hague "trying to find a solution to the problem."

Schmidt said seven youths tried to scale the embassy fence early Thursday morning, but only three succeeded.

"They came over the fences where the security guards are. It's too long a distance for the eight guards to cover, about 30 or 40 metres (99-132 feet) away from the guard post," Schmidt said.

An East Timorese source close to the group earlier said four East Timorese entered the embassy at around 8:30 am (0100 GMT) Thursday.

The source identified the four as Victor Agustino P Riveiro, 24, Dere, 18, Konarmaro Sanches, 19 and Bagio Belo, 13.

Schmidt would not confirm the names, but said there were only three.

Since last September, 72 East Timorese youths have left for Portugal after seeking political asylum at eight foreign missions here.

Lisbon, which severed diplomatic ties with Indonesia shortly after Indonesian troops invaded East Timor in 1975, accepts the East Timorese as full Portuguese citizens.

Indonesia annexed the former Portuguese colony in 1976, in a move never recognised by the United Nations.

Indonesia: Daily Backs PRC's Participation in ASEAN Forum

BK1804122396 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 18 Apr 96 p 4

[Editorial: "China's Presence in the ISG Will Remove the Perception of Threats to the Asia-Pacific Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Inter-Sessional Group on Confidence-Building Measures [ISG] issued several recommendations on means to enhance confidence-building measures during its meeting in Jakarta from 15 to 16 April. Indeed, confidence-building measures should be formulated to remove distrust among the 19 members of the ASEAN Regional Forum [ARF] and, above all, to gauge their respective military intentions and capabilities.

The ISG reached a consensus on increasing military contacts through military schools. Such military contacts are expected to accustom ARF military officers to exchanging views, thus enhancing dialogue on political and military issues in the Asia-Pacific region. The ARF military officers will at least have a common perception on various political and security issues in a region that has potential conflicts on borders and territorial waters.

A crisis erupted in the Taiwan Strait recently. Tension on the Koran peninsula is not yet over. China and Japan are locked in a dispute over Sensaku island. Japan and South Korea dispute sovereignty over Tokdo island. China and five other countries (Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and the Philippines) lay overlapping claims to the Spratly islands. Malaysia and Singapore claim Batu Puteh island as part of their respective territories. We, too, and Malaysia have not yet settled the dispute over the Sipadan and Ligitan islands.

We can understand why the ISG was unable at the current stage to reach a consensus on the need for

multilateral military exercises. It will take many more years to realize this idea. At present, bilateral military exercises should be encouraged. In fact, the bilateral mechanism has gradually succeeded in creating mutual understanding among ARF military officers.

The ISG meeting was marked by a debate over whether or not it was necessary to set up an ARF arms register. Some called for the immediate formation of such a body, while others felt that the existence of the UNROCA [UN Register on Conventional Arms] was adequate and there was no need for a duplication. The controversy is understandable because the UNROCA itself has not functioned as it should have. Given that the ARF has developed very rapidly and is useful, an ARF arms register would be more effective than the UNROCA.

China's desire to replace Japan as an ISG co-deputy chairman along with Indonesia was an important outcome of the ISG meeting. Indeed, the Chinese desire should be accommodated because this major country should be involved more actively in such forums as the ARF and ASEAN post-ministerial meetings. Many countries have regarded China as the biggest threat to the region, but getting that country more active in regional affairs would be more reasonable than isolating it.

China has also expressed its desire to elevate its status in ASEAN post-ministerial conferences — from a sectoral partner to a dialogue partner. China was willing to discuss the Spratly dispute through the so-called "Huangzhou process" following an ASEAN post-ministerial conference. ASEAN members were happy that China was finally willing to discuss the dispute multilaterally.

There is no doubt that China is a key Asia-Pacific country. Its involvement in such forums as ASEAN post-ministerial conferences has shown that it wants to play a positive role in the region. During the crisis in the Taiwan Strait, China showed its ability to refrain from turning the crisis into a military invasion.

Indeed, the post-Cold War era has provided China with a golden opportunity to play a dominant role in the region. Coincidentally, the United States is gradually downsizing its military strength in the region. Asia-Pacific defense circles ask: Is there a Chinese intention to invade the territories of other countries lurking behind its desire to play the dominant role in the region?

As far as we know, China as a military giant just wants to show its "muscle." China is targeting only "renegade provinces" such as Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau as well as several provinces on the eastern coast. The

government is worried that prosperity in the provinces will trigger the disintegration of the Chinese nation.

The ARF issued a working paper on the ARF concept during a ministerial meeting in Brunei last July. According to the working paper, the ARF must at the first stage formulate confidence-building measures. At the second stage, the ARF must formulate a "preventive diplomacy" to prevent an outbreak of conflicts. At the third stage, the ARF must formulate conflict resolution methods.

At the present stage, big and small countries within the ARF have indeed different interests. For example, Western countries and other key countries have some reservations about admitting India as a new member. In addition, how to accommodate the desire of Britain and France (which are represented by the European Union) to become ARF members remains unresolved.

All the 19 members had diverse proposals during the ISG meeting early last week. This shows that the ARF is rapidly developing and gradually becoming a dynamic, respectable, and reliable forum to discuss political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

More importantly, the ARF is proving effective in helping to create a balance of power among big countries in the region, particularly between China and the United States. Accordingly, we should support China's desire to become a co-deputy chairman of the ISG along with Indonesia as an initial step to achieve a balance of power between China and the United States.

Indeed, there is a price to be paid because many Western countries will object to China's position as a co-deputy chairman. Nevertheless, this should be the way for the ARF to involve China in various regional activities. Thus, China will no longer be regarded as a threat to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Indonesia: Workers Abroad Seen as Top Revenue Source

96SE0054A Jakarta SUARA KARYA in Indonesian
27 Mar 96 pp 4, 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta (SUARA KARYA)—The government is increasingly serious about exploiting the manpower as a mainstay export in the non-oil-and-gas sector. Over the next several years, this field is projected as replacing textiles and plywood as the mainstay for earning foreign exchange. Firm determination and external opportunities with good prospects have made the government optimistic that the manpower sector will become the prima donna among non-oil-and-gas exports.

For example, Minister of Manpower Abdul Latief declared that by the year 2000 the manpower sector

will produce \$12.5 billion in foreign exchange. "We are optimistic that the target of 2.5 million service workers by the year 2000 will be achieved. Thus, by the year 2000, exports of service workers—for which we emphasize skilled and professional personnel—will clearly become the prima donna among non-oil-and-gas earners of foreign exchange, taking the place now held by textiles and plywood," Abdul Latief said Tuesday [26 March] in Jakarta as he spoke to participants in a national coordination conference for exporters of Indonesian service workers.

The coordinating conference, which lasts until tomorrow, Thursday, 28 March, is a proof of the government's seriousness in exploiting the manpower sector as the mainstay for non-oil-and-gas exports. Almost all the recruiters of Indonesian service workers for overseas work were invited to attend the program, which was opened officially by President Suharto. Besides the minister of manpower, five other ministers were brought in as speakers. They were followed by a series of other speakers, consisting of observers and of leaders of organizations involved in export operations.

Same Perspective

Therefore, a molding of sameness of perspective among the parties involved in exporting service workers—particularly between the government and recruiters—can be expected. This, in turn, can be depended on to produce enthusiasm and hard work by each party in trying to achieve the target or projection mentioned above.

The target of making the manpower sector the backbone of non-oil-and-gas exports has a strong basis, at least because the external environment promises excellent opportunities, according to Hartarto, coordinating minister for production and distribution. Speaking on the first day of the national coordination meeting, Hartarto pointed out that a number of countries clearly display excellent opportunities.

"Economic growth among the countries of East Asia, such as Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, will remain high. This means that those countries will continue to need many workers," Hartarto said.

International agreements such as AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area], APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation], and GATT/WTO also provide increasingly extensive opportunities. According to Hartarto, these agreements promise that economic and trade opportunities in various parts of the world will be more dynamic. In this context, he said, exports of service workers can be more

and more depended on as a mainstay among exporters earning foreign exchange.

These excellent opportunities depend, however, on the readiness and capabilities of the various involved parties in the country to take advantage of them. The minister of manpower and the coordinating minister for production and distribution therefore stressed that steps must be taken to improve the quality of our manpower. If we do not, the opportunities will simply be missed, and, worse still, many domestic jobs could be seized by foreigners.

For that reason, Hartarto stressed the importance of encouraging more intensive education and training. This, he said, could be done by both formal and nonformal education. "The government will encourage various parties to have a part in providing such education and training," Hartarto said.

Financial Support

This encouragement will not deal merely with moral understanding, but will also be expressed in the creation of a conducive climate and the provision of economic incentives. Primarily, Hartarto promised that the government will continue to strive to provide financial support so that the private sector will be seriously motivated to conduct education and training activities.

"Pak Mar'ie [Minister of Finance Mar'ie Muhammad] is now preparing policies on bank support for companies that conduct such worker education and training," Hartarto said.

Not only that, but Hartarto said that fiscal policy needs also to be provided for those worker education and training activities. Unfortunately, he did not present further information on those fiscal incentives. Under the government's fiscal policy up to now, 100 percent of the cost of education they provide can be recorded as business costs.

Apart from that issue, Hartarto stressed that the private sector has an important role in the effort to upgrade human resources. He said that private companies in some countries are still bound by obligations to provide apprentice training.

"Under apprentice training, diploma recognition is not needed, because the objective is acceptance by the business community. The form and length of training are up to them," Hartarto said.

Quality of Human Resources

He did not mention any possibility that the Indonesian business world will be required to provide apprentice training. He merely called on big companies not only to provide such activities voluntarily, but also to act

in setting up academies, polytechnics, and management courses at the middle and senior levels.

In the opinion of Soesilo Soedarman, coordinating minister for politics and security, institutions of formal education must have more concern for the quality of human resources. He said that they must be able to guarantee that the quality of graduates is such that they are truly capable of meeting the challenges of the business world. Thus, not only will the interests of the business community be accommodated, but frustration will be avoided by graduates who cannot be hired by the business community because they do not meet qualitative requirements.

"The measurement of success by an educational institution lies not with the proportion of graduates, but primarily with how many of their graduates are absorbed by the labor market," Soesilo said.

To accomplish that, educational institutions must always be responsive to developments in the labor market. In this regard, Soesilo said, curricula must be truly flexible without disregarding basic universal principles in the field of education.

Indonesia: Editorial Questions Indonesian Futures Exchange

*96SE0054C Jakarta BISNIS INDONESIA
in Indonesian 28 Mar 96 p 10*

[Unsigned editorial: "Waiting for the Commodity Futures Trading Exchange"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government early this month decided that Indonesia will have a commodity futures trading (CFT) exchange. The policy appears quite clear: The exchange will be set up and operated by the private sector under government supervision, in this case by the Commodities Exchange Executive Board (BAPEBTI), which was established during the middle of the last decade.

The private groups that so far have declared their commitment to leading the way in setting up a CFT exchange are only the Indonesian Federation of Vegetable Oil Associations (FAMNI) and the Indonesian Association of Coffee Exporters (AEKI). In the near future, they will submit the business plan that they are drafting.

BAPEBTI, which will eventually serve as the BAPEPAM [Capital Market Oversight Board] does for the stock market, has said that the CFT exchange will be open (not just for products related to vegetable oils and coffee). It is almost certain that the CFT exchange has been planned for multicommodity trading.

Before making this decision, the government reportedly conducted three studies to answer these questions: Is there a need for facilities to manage risks? What will be the benefit for the national economy? Will its operation be feasible?

According to BAPEBTI, The studies concluded that the demand for futures contracts is quite large. Futures contracts are viewed as beneficial in reducing business risk. In addition, the operation of a futures trading exchange will provide price records that reflect real conditions in Indonesia.

We have observed that the plan to set up a CFT exchange in Indonesia has received much attention from similar exchanges overseas. Whether coincidentally or by plan, one day after BAPEBTI announced the government's decision at the middle of this month, an executive of the Kobe Rubber Exchange (KRE) of Japan was in Jakarta to offer cooperation.

What is now still a question is how far the concept of transparency will be applied in the formation of the CFT exchange. Such a question is proper, because there is an impression that companies (legal entities) that want to be founding members of the exchange must register through their respective associations.

If that is not true, such an impression is hard to avoid, because recent developments confirm that view. For example, the AEKI suddenly announced that it had at the beginning of this week closed the registration period during which members could register to become founding members.

People then ask how businesses dealing in a commodity with no association can become members of the founding board, who almost certainly will have advantages over regular members. If they may join, what must they do? This is an important matter, because founding members may be in a position to determine membership in the clearing board, which will have a big role in the operation of the CFT exchange.

There are other questions. Since the CFT exchange will be multicommodity, will the clearing board to be created soon after the exchange is established also act as guarantor of transactions in other commodities that enter the exchange later? Or, will each type of commodity have a separate clearing board?

We are aware that a mechanism for protecting value (hedging) is greatly needed (to spur growth of industries in the real sector), and, in fact, the CFT exchange is being created for that purpose. In this regard, the question arises whether the exchange that is to be developed will also be oriented to options and index trading transactions or to other transactions of a derivative nature

(which are very speculative and have little connection with the real sector).

The BAPEBTI needs to clarify these issues as early as possible so that all doubts can be eliminated.

Indonesia: Commentary on National Auto Plan

96SE0054B Jakarta *BISNIS INDONESIA*
in Indonesian 28 Mar 96 p 11

[Article by M. Zainal Muttaqin, executive director of the P3UK (expansion unknown), Jakarta: "Make INPRES (Presidential Instructions) 2/196 a Locomotive for Developing Small and Medium-Sized Business]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta—The issuance of INPRES No. 02/1996 on development of the national automobile industry greatly startled many people. Reactions for and against have emerged.

Auto users generally welcomed it gladly, because they may be able to buy sedans at low prices. The "Timor" sedan, to be built by PT [Limited Company] Timor Putra Nasional [TPN], owned by Hutomo Mandala Putra (Tommy), will cost 35 million rupiah, half the price of sedans in that class that now dominate the Indonesian market.

Executives of the automotive industry presented opposite reactions, although in different ways. They spoke candidly, in whispers, quietly, or with courteous language of their great astonishment at the policy.

INPRES No. 02/1996 not only smashed their expansion plans, but even threatened the market domination they have held for so long. In the last three weeks, the auto market has undergone a sharp decline.

Apart from the pros and cons of INPRES No. 02/1996, the policy must be seen as an integral part of the effort to energize the economy of the people. In other words, the government and domestic industrialists must make this INPRES to be a locomotive that spurs the energizing and advancement of the economy of the common people.

Moreover, the criteria and requirements set by the INPRES are that 100 percent of capital must be owned by Indonesian citizens and that local content must be high (20 percent in the first year, 40 percent in the second, and 60 percent in the third), which will make possible the development of industry among the common people.

From another aspect, the value of the market held by the automobile industry until now is very great. With total vehicle sales in 1995 reaching 385,000 units, the number of rupiah to be pocketed can be envisioned,

said Herman Z. Latif, general chairman of GAIKINDO [Indonesian Motor Vehicle Industry Association].

If 90 percent of vehicle sales are assumed to be commercial vehicles (category I) and small sedans priced between 20 million and 70 million rupiah, that means tens of trillions of rupiah are circulating in the automotive industry.

Unfortunately, however, \$3.75 billion are used for buying imported components. Many people point to this as a waste of foreign exchange.

Minister of Industry and Trade Tunky Ariwibowo apparently confirmed this, saying that one of the issues behind the promulgation of INPRES No. 02/1996 is the long-standing failure to develop the automotive industry.

The requirement for certain percentages of local content in a national car naturally represents a big market opportunity for domestic industry, particularly small and medium-sized industry.

If most of this opportunity falls into the hands of small and medium-sized industry, this will clearly be very significant for the energizing of the economy of the common people.

We hope that the enjoyment of special facilities by PT TPN alone is only temporary. With the passage of time, any automobile manufacturer who can meet the criteria set by the INPRES must receive the same facilities.

When this has been realized, the people will certainly give full support to the government's policy. If this policy is discriminative, however, and is enjoyed only by certain people—those close to holders of power—it is certain that it will not receive the people's support.

In connection with INPRES No. 02/1996 becoming a "locomotive," public support is very important in this globalization era, when the issue of democratization is of growing importance.

First, there need to be regulations that require the company enjoying INPRES No. 2/1996 to cooperate with small factories in the development of business. Among those, the ones with the clearest possibilities for making auto components are foundries, which are scattered throughout the country.

In other words, the manufacture of components must be given to small and medium-sized factories active in that field. In Indonesia, there are many small foundry centers that can be mobilized as suppliers of auto components, such as the metal industry centers at Cianjur and at Batur in Klaten, Central Java.

Technically, the Indonesian automotive principal could cooperate with the big domestic companies that operate in the same field, such as Bukaka or Bakrie, who long ago learned to wrestle in the metal and heavy equipment industries.

Second, optimize from top to bottom the role of the Department of Industry and Trade and other bureaucratic organizations in the supervision and development of small industry. In this regard, the main thing to be done is to improve the quality of small industry products so that they meet standards.

This means that it is necessary to develop and upgrade human resources and technology so that quality products can be made. Maximization, optimization, and effectiveness of BUMN [state-owned companies] and private companies must be the top agenda items for the Department of Industry and Trade and the Department of Cooperatives and Small Enterprises.

If similar things can be applied in Japan, Korea, and other countries, why not in Indonesia? The subcontract method employed by big manufacturers in cooperation with small industry would create harmonious business partnerships. This would also speed up efforts toward even distribution and would also greatly affect the strengthening of social adhesiveness.

Third, prod—require, if necessary—banks, BUMN's, and private companies to give priority to credit for small industry involved in this program, particularly for the acquisition of machinery and other technological equipment.

This is important, since the enhancement of technology needed by small industry to make quality products needs adequate funding support. Without such funding, human resource development will not be of much use.

In this context, the regulation that requires 20 percent of outstanding bank credits to be in the form of KUK [small business credit] needs to be revised. The KUK requirement must be raised to the point that it will ensure the growth of strong small industries belonging to common people.

If Minister of Finance Mar'ie Muhammad can establish special tax policy to support the PT TPN national auto program, why can the government not do it for something that is bigger and more urgent?

In this matter, the commitment and support of the minister of finance and the governor of the Bank of Indonesia are greatly needed for the sake of energizing small industry belonging to common people.

Laos

Laos: 'Surprise Cabinet Reshuffle Not To Affect President

BK1904052296 Bangkok THE NATION in English
19 Apr 96 pp A1, A3

[Report by Kunlachada Cahiphiphat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane - Lao President Nouthak Phoumsavan will remain in office until 1998, defying reports of an early retirement, under a surprise "minor" cabinet reshuffle to be announced tomorrow.

The position of Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon will also be unaffected.

Instead, in a minor transfer of power, a vice president will be elected, the first in 20 years, and an additional deputy prime minister will be appointed.

Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboulapha, who was removed from the Peoples Revolutionary Party's politburo and central committee at the sixth party congress last month, will also retain his job.

Chaleun Yiapaohu, head of the Office of the National Assembly said yesterday the names of the vice president, the new deputy prime minister and new cabinet members would be endorsed by the National Assembly and announced tomorrow, the third day of the eighth plenary session which began yesterday and will continue until April 25.

In a rare press conference at which foreign journalists were allowed, Chaleun described the changes as "minor" and a response to the need to maintain stability and assure the continuation of economic development and an open foreign policy.

Laos is set to become a full member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) next year, and is gearing up for economic reform which promises to lift annual per capita income from US\$35 (Bt[baht]8,750) to \$500 by the year 2000.

Chaleun dismissed widespread speculation of a big change in the aftermath of the party congress.

Major change would not come about until February 1998, when the cabinet's five-year term would expire under the constitution adopted in 1991, he said. Articles 41, 54 and 58 fix the terms of the president, the National Assembly and the cabinet at five years.

Chaleun said the government was appointed during the first plenary session of the National Assembly, on Feb 20, 1993, only three years and two months ago.

"Therefore, there is no need for a profound change in the cabinet now. These (minor) changes are in response to a need which has arisen," Chaleun said.

Nouhak's announced retirement from the politburo at the party's congress last month and his being given the title of the party's adviser fuelled speculation that he would step down as president and be replaced by Prime Minister Khamtai.

A precedent was set at the fifth party congress in 1991, when then-prime minister Kaysone Phomvihane became president and then- deputy prime minister and defence minister Khamtai succeeded him as prime minister. But according to Chaleun, Nouhak will remain president until his term expires in 1998.

Chaleun said the constitution stipulated that a vice president could be appointed by the National Assembly when the need arose.

"For the first time in 20 years, Laos will have a vice president," he said.

The appointment of a new deputy prime minister would fill a vacancy in the cabinet that fell vacant following the death of deputy prime minister Phoun Sipaseut.

Diplomatic sources said Minister for Agriculture and Forestry Gen Sisavat Keobounphan, who was re-elected to the party's politburo last month, was a candidate for the vice presidency.

They expected Defence Minister Gen Choummali Saingnason, the third member of the newly-elected nine-member politburo, and Vientiane Governor Maj Boungnang Volachit, who was elected to the politburo, to be the two candidates for the deputy prime ministership.

Philippines

Philippines: APEC Security Men Get Training From U.S. Experts

BK1804110396 (Internet) The Journal Group WWW in English 17 Apr 96

[This web page publishes material from four daily newspapers and a weekly magazine put out by the "The Philippine Journalists, Incorporated (PJI), also known as The Journal Group." The dailies are THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL, THE PHILIPPINE JOURNAL, THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL TONIGHT, and THE PEOPLE'S TALIBA. The weekly is the WOMEN'S JOURNAL]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior Supt. [Superintendent] Arturo Lomibao, PNP [Philippine National Police] spokesman, said the U.S. experts have been training soldiers and policemen assigned as APEC close-in

security in counter-terrorism strategies, intelligence collection, and close-quarter combat.

APEC security will be handled by at least 20,000 soldiers and policemen specially trained for the summit which is expected to go on record as one of the most strict in history, Lomibao said.

Other PNP officials said APEC security will be more elaborate than the visits of Pope John Paul II in February last year and U.S. President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary last November.

The summit will reach its climax in the second week of November with the arrival of world leaders, led by Clinton.

APEC security will cover the routes of participants set to travel from Manila to Cebu and then to Subic in Zambales.

Last Saturday, a new batch from the Criminal Investigation Command [CIC], Narcotics Command, Presidential Security Group, Security Command, Special Action Force Command, Aviation Security Command, Traffic Management Command, and Regional Commands 3 and 4 joined the APEC security force.

The new batch graduated from a one-week special trainers course conducted by Harry Brandon, Sr., vice president of the Jefferson Waterman International, a Washington-based security firm.

Brandon lectured on aspects of criminal investigation, counter-terrorism, intelligence collection, and management of law enforcement activities.

Supt. Charles Calima, Jr., chief of the CIC Police Criminal Investigation Unit, said they also took trainers' courses on interdiction techniques, investigation of transnational crimes, and VIP [Very Important Person] protection.

Chief Supt. Crisogono Francisco, PNP Director for Human Resource and Doctrine Development, said the seminar is vital in the development of PNP personnel into highly effective, efficient, and competent public servants.

A number of these security personnel have also undergone training in antiterrorist tactics and strategies conducted by French, Israeli, and U.S. Secret Service agents.

There are fears that foreign terrorists will try to disrupt the APEC meeting and gain international mileage.

Earlier, former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia, appointed by President Ramos as overall commander of the APEC security force, said

they would just rent imported bullet-proof vehicles for use of the summit participants.

APEC organizers shelved plans to purchase security vehicles worth P [pesos] 18 million each following an uproar from Congress.

Instead, Abadia said the APEC security office will just rent 40 imported security cars costing between \$700 and \$800 per day.

He said the vehicles will consist of 20 bullet-proof and 20 non-bullet proof limousines.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile led the opposition to purchase imported cars worth P18 million saying it is impractical for the already cash-strapped government to spend that much.

Philippines: UK Minister Sees Sustained Economic 'Growth Momentum'

BK1804110096 Manila PNA in English
0320 GMT 18 Apr 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, April 17 (PNA) — The Philippines' intensifying growth momentum is "not just a flash in the pan, but a truly sustainable growth."

Recent Manila visitor, United Kingdom's Foreign Minister Jeremy Hanley was quite emphatic on his assessment of the country's economy, pointing out that the Philippines' growth momentum is built on democratic principles.

The Philippines' economic liberalization has now attracted the world markets which "are now coming over" to the country, and Great Britain is one of them, Hanley told reporters in an interview.

"Our ambassadors said there are now many trade missions coming over to the Philippines than ever in your history," he said. And "the welcome phenomenon is that there are people here who are willing to trade with the British," he added.

The British official said he reads this development as an expression of "more confidence" in the Philippine economy so that even "small and medium enterprises are now coming in because your people are ready to give them the opportunity."

Hanley said Great Britain will build on this development as it prepares for the second Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM II) which it will host after two years in London.

ASEM I, held earlier this year in Bangkok was a preliminary dialog among 25 Asian and European heads of state designed to promote better cooperation between

Asia and Europe on a broad range of concerns affecting them.

Philippines: Ramos Reports on Economic Gains in Mar

BK1804105996 Manila PNA in English
0320 GMT 18 Apr 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, April 17 (PNA) — President Fidel V. Ramos today said positive developments dominated the economy in March this year such as the slowing down of inflation, the decline in unemployment, the surge in exports, the stable exchange rate, the continued bullish stock market, and the continued expansion of the manufacturing sector.

The president, upon receiving the economic performance of the country in March from Planning Secretary Cielito Habito, gave out copies of the report to reporters during his regular press conference at Malacanang [presidential palace].

He said the month-to-month inflation substantially slowed down in March, inching slightly by 0.4% from 1% in February. This shows that the one-shot inflationary impact of the oil price hike, the wage increases, and the Expanded Value-Added Tax has tapered off.

Unemployment declined from 8.8% in January 1995 to only 8.3% this year, with 1.26 million new jobs created in the past year, significantly above the targeted one million jobs per year.

Job creation also grew significantly by 5%, outstripping the 4.5% rise in the working population. Agriculture, construction, and services produced most of the new jobs. The recovery in agriculture also created some 362,000 new jobs.

Exports continued to grow, surging by 24.4% in February to reach \$3 billion. The top dollar earner was electronics and components, which rose by 59.7% and made up 38.7% of the total (\$399 million). Coconut oil exports reached \$38 million and woodcraft and furniture, \$65 million.

Imports, meanwhile, totaled \$2.2 billion in January, up by 20.4% from January 1995.

The manufacturing sector continued to grow as the value of production index (VPI) based on the Survey of Key Enterprises in Manufacturing (SKEM) went up by 17.7%. Growth in this sector was spurred by ongoing expansion in production capacities in anticipation of increased competition resulting from the pending oil industry deregulation.

The foreign exchange rate remained stable at P [pesos] 26 to \$1 since March 1995. To further maintain the currency stability against speculative attacks, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas [Central Bank of the Philippines] concluded bilateral repurchase agreements with Indonesia and Singapore, among other things, the president said.

The president also reported that the stock market continued to be bullish. The March composite index finished 18.2 points higher than the February index, closing 2,900.75 despite the generally bearish mood.

The higher index beat back the effects of the double digit inflation, the China-Taiwan conflict and the sharp plunge of the Dow Jones Industrial Average. This week, the composite index breached the pivotal 3,000-point mark.

Philippines Finance Official: Country Now 'Less Indebted'

BK1804092296 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 18 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The country will now join Malaysia and Thailand as "less indebted" nations.

A Finance official told **BUSINESS WORLD** the country has finally passed the four major criteria in debt servicing, enough to warrant an upgraded status.

The DoF [Department of Finance] noted the country's debt ratios have dramatically improved: debt share to exports is now at 116.3%, way below the 275% benchmark; debt service to exports also fared better at 13.4%; interest payments as percentage of exports plunged to 4.4% from the 20% standard; and debt share to the gross national product (GNP) has veered away from the 60% and above "worst case" level, settling at 53%.

The country was categorized in 1992 as a "moderately indebted" nation, after it exceeded the 60% debt-to-GNP ratio. In the 1980s, the country was under the "severely indebted" status when its debt to GNP greatly exceeded 60%.

According to the DoF official, the improved debt picture provides leverage for the government panel meeting with foreign credit raters this week. Moody's Investors Service will be the first to review the country's creditworthiness. Standard and Poor's and Duff and Phelps will follow in the succeeding months.

The DoF official said the country will graduate to the "less indebted" status well ahead of another "moderately indebted" ASEAN country, Indonesia.

According to DoF documents, the country's debt stock as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) now at P [pesos] 52.9 billion is one of the lowest in the ASEAN region. Interest payments are also a few points away from Japan's 3.1% share to GDP. Among ASEAN nations, Thailand has the smallest debt stock and the lowest interest payment share to GDP.

Philippines: Foreign Firms Vie for Cebu Mass Transit Project

BK1804100896 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 18 Apr 96

[Report by Dirk J. Barreveld — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cebu City — Three foreign companies have shown interest in a build-operate-transfer scheme for a Cebu light railway transit (LRT) system. The companies are from Switzerland, Singapore, and Hong Kong, but the firms' letters of intent are being withheld pending the resolution of the issue on which agency will implement the project.

A Cebu mass transport system, similar to Metro Manila's light railway system, was one of Mayor Alvin Garcia's promises during last year's election campaign. And he is trying, at all cost, to keep his promise. He recently said a blueprint for the project should have been drawn up by the end of his term. But the project has hit a snag, said Migel Paul Villarete, private sector representative to the Regional Development Council.

It is not clear which government agency or unit will implement the project. There are three candidates which can implement the project — the city government, provincial government, or the Department of Transportation and Communication (DoTC).

Philippines: 'Safety Nets' for Retail Trade Liberalization Urged

BK1904072796 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 19 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Retail trade liberalization will not secure popular support if the government fails to take necessary measures to protect related sectors that will be initially disadvantaged by this reform. Participants in a workshop on retail trade liberalization conducted recently by the University of Asia and the Pacific's Institute for International and Strategic Studies (UAP-IISS) and the Philippine Exporters Confederation said government may be able to persuade oppositors to support this measure by ensuring them of adequate safety nets.

Negros Oriental Representative Margarito Teves said that while the case of the partially liberalized banking industry demonstrates the benefits that will be enjoyed even by those who initially criticize liberalization, government cannot assume a reactive position by providing safeguards only when disadvantaged sectors begin reeling from initially adverse repercussions in the first years of liberalization. "The government should take the necessary proactive measures in the eventuality that surplus labor may be displaced by increased efficiency in the retail trade sector, such as the promotion of small- and medium-scale enterprises and channeling more resources to agriculture and agriculture-based industries," Mr. Teves said.

Philippines: Enrile on MILF Threat to Peace in Mindanao

BK1804110596 Manila PNA in English
0150 GMT 18 Apr 96

[From the Press Review — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Manila, Apr. 18 (PNA) — Following are the top stories and excerpts of commentaries in the major English-language Philippine newspapers today: [passage omitted] STAR — Enrile: MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] is No. 1 threat in Mindanao [subhead]

Armed Forces Chief Gen. Arturo Enrile said yesterday the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is now the No. 1 threat to peace and order in Mindanao...

Enrile said the MILF has a one-track mind. "It not only wants Mindanao for itself. It wants to turn the island into an Islamic state," he told reporters....

As this developed, MILF Chief Al Hadj Murad admitted his group is currently undertaking a massive arms buildup in response to the deployment of more soldiers in Mindanao.... [passage omitted]

Philippines: Military, MILF Rebels Forge Cease-Fire Accord

BK1904013696 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The military authorities and the MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] rebels have forged an agreement to stop fighting. The fighting has left 34 casualties and caused the suspension of construction on a major irrigation project in North Cotabato.

According to Paul Dominguez, presidential assistant for Mindanao, the ceasefire agreement was forged after the military and MILF representatives met in Carmen town. The two panels also agreed to cooperate to ensure the

security of the residents and establishments in their respective areas, and of the new highway being built to join the two provinces. The government and rebel forces will remain in Carmen and other nearby towns, although no fighting is expected to ensue. Other details of the ceasefire will be discussed by both panels on 21 April.

Thailand

Thailand: Thaksin Opposes 'Special' Privileges Given to U.S. Firm

BK1904055196 Bangkok THE NATION in English
19 Apr 96 pp B1, B2

[Report by Watcharaphong Thongrungr]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat is opposed to the Industry Ministry's decision to award special investment privileges to US auto-maker General Motors Co.

The ministry has offered to waive the local content requirement two years ahead of schedule to persuade GM to select Thailand as its Southeast Asian auto manufacturing base.

The Industry Ministry has already told GM the Thai government would extend the special privileges if the company chose Thailand over the Philippines for its base.

Thaksin, however, argued that the decision was incorrect because it would harm local car part producers.

He said after a meeting of the National Industry Board that, "The government should not aim simply at attracting foreign investment. It should look at the long term impact on local parts manufacturers." The US auto-maker, once the largest company in the world, is seeking a foothold in Asia and has shortlisted Thailand and the Philippines as potential sites for its initial US\$500 million (Bt[baht]12.5 billion) investment.

GM is expected to make a decision by the end of April, but the choice depends heavily on the investment conditions set by the contenders.

Thaksin said he would be glad if GM selected Thailand but the company should look at Thailand as an export base, instead of taking aim at the already crowded domestic market.

Thaksin, the committee chairman, said the committee yesterday endorsed the industry master plan which encompasses key sectors such as the automotive and electronics industries. The committee will forward the master plan to Cabinet for approval in June.

Thaksin said the country's automotive master plan should be a guideline for promoting exports.

Thailand has excellent potential to develop into a hub for auto and parts exports, with the value of related exports topping Bt7.8 billion last year.

He said foreign car companies should demonstrate their sincerity toward Thailand by indicating that they will use the country as an export hub.

The committee also considered an Industry Ministry proposal to construct a bonded warehouse in the proposed Free Trade Zone.

Thai Trade Department To Ask U.S. To Postpone Sea Turtle Law

BK1904024696 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Thailand will join 55 countries in asking the United States to postpone its enforcement of the law on sea turtle, which was to be enforced in two weeks.

Pracha Charutrakunchai, director general of the Foreign Trade Department, disclosed that the United States will announce its enforcement of the law prohibiting countries that export black tiger prawns to the United States to use fishing nets to catch these prawns, as they adversely affect the living conditions of sea turtles. He said that Thailand will join 55 other countries that will be affected by the U.S. action, to file suit against the United States at the World Trade Organization in the next two weeks should the United States fail to announce that it will postpone its 1 May date of enforcement.

Thailand: ASEAN Slated To Meet on Turtle Excluder Device 23 Apr

BK1804141396 Bangkok PRACHACHAT THURAKIT in Thai 18-21 Apr 96 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Plotprasop Suratsawadi, director of the Fishery Department, informed PRACHACHAT THURAKIT that the ASEAN countries will hold a special meeting on 23 April in Singapore to establish the ASEAN position on the U.S. ban on the import of sea shrimps from countries that do not meet its turtle protection requirements. Thailand has been asked to chair the meeting.

The Court of International Trade earlier ruled in favor of the so-called Earth Island Institute to require the U.S. Government to prohibit the import of sea shrimps from countries that do not have a law on the protection of

sea turtles and to demand exporting countries to use the turtle excluder device.

Plotprasop said: "The required use of the turtle excluder device in the interest of conserving sea turtles is unacceptable because Thailand already has a law that sufficiently protects sea turtles. Moreover, the countries participating in the latest Southeast Asia Fishery Development Council meeting all registered their dissatisfaction with the required use of the device."

The special meeting in Singapore is expected to reach a common position on the following points: 1. The current laws in ASEAN countries are comparable to those in the United States in terms of sea turtle protection. 2. It is not right to require boats to use the turtle excluder device without technical trials to prove its merit. 3. If use of the excluder device is to be mandatory, the ASEAN countries need one to three years of trial use. This is the same principle the United States applied with the 14 Caribbean countries. 4. The ASEAN countries feel that the turtle import ban constitutes use of a domestic law to impede international trade. Thailand's position is that it is ready to have the WTO address the issue on behalf of the ASEAN countries.

Thai Ministry 'Source' Sees Opposition to Australia in ASEM

BK1904075396 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Apr 96 p A6

[Report by Marisa Chimprapha]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is unlikely that Australia will be able to take part in the next Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) as its geographical location is neither in Asia nor Europe, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry source claimed yesterday.

The first Asem in Bangkok in March agreed that if there was to be an increase in the grouping's membership, it would be left to each side to select new members from their region.

"How can Europe consider Australia's application to Asem as it is not in Europe?" asked the source. "As for the Asian side, we will also pick other regional countries to be members and take part in the second round of meetings in Britain in two years time."

"We are not eligible to consider Australia, if asked, because it is not part of our continent," he said. "May be it could just be a misunderstanding by either [Australian Foreign Minister Alexander] Downer or reporters covering the visit."

The source was responding to a statement by Downer, who said during his visit to Jakarta this week that In-

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas expressed support for Canberra to become a member of the next Asem.

The source's stance reinforced, Malaysia's opposition to Australia joining, saying it was not actually part of Asia.

For the time being, Europe is represented by members of the European Union and the European Commission. Asem was initiated to forge economic and political cooperation between both regions.

"That [next Asem meeting] is a long way off, but we will continue to work carefully and cautiously towards participating in it. I don't want to hold out false hopes, but there is a good chance we may be able to participate," Downer was quoted as saying.

The source said there were many countries expressing interest in participating in the second Asem, including India, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Mongolia and the Czech Republic.

"The Asian side could consider India and Pakistan's proposed membership if they put forward their applications because they are part of Asia," the source said.

Downer will arrive in Bangkok tomorrow to undertake a three-day official visit.

Thailand: Article Warns PRC Military Assistance 'Dangerous'

BK1904052996 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
19 Apr 96 p A4

[Article by Kawi Chongkitthawon: "New Sino-Thai Alliance Dangerous"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the midst of Beijing's increasing military might and continued sabrerattling, Thailand and China are building a new military alliance that is based on traditional friendship and a donor-recipient relationship, while focusing on long-term strategic engagement.

Despite the settlement of the conflict in Cambodia, ties between Thailand and China have not been as close as they used to be during the 1980s. But with the absence of immediate security threats in the region, both countries are now working hard to restore ties to the previous level.

Relying on the remaining goodwill emanating from the decade-long political and military cooperation during the Cambodian war, the leaders of Thailand and China have decided to go beyond the conventional scope of arms sales at friendship prices (ie, heavily subsidized prices) and high-level exchange visits, to a new and systematic pattern of military cooperation that would

involve the granting of aid, training as well as institutional building.

After discussions with Gen Zhang Wannien, vice chairman of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Military Commission, Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut announced that China will be giving a grant worth US\$3 million (Bt[baht]75 million) to Thailand. This is the first time that a non-communist member of Asean has become a recipient of military aid from a communist country.

Zhang is well-known for his role as the commander who oversaw three weeks of military drills last month near Taiwan that brought jitters to the whole region. He is currently on a visit to countries considered friendly to China, including Thailand and Singapore, neither of which is involved in the disputes in the South China Sea.

The grant, which is symbolic in nature, is small in comparison with what Thailand used to receive from the U.S. and other countries. But its timing is significant, as well as the fact that it is being given without "any strings attached".

For years, Thailand had suffered from conditions set by arms exporters, especially the U.S. In 1991 for instance, after the military coup, Washington cut military aid and curtailed arms sales to Thailand. But as far as Chinese aid is concerned, Thailand is free from any conditions - be they the promotion of democracy or human rights. As a goodwill gesture, Chawalit said the Thai Army will spend part of grant to purchase Chinese weapons.

Chawalit, who knows Zhang personally, did not fail to express his gratitude to China, which has generously assisted Thailand in the past. In 1986, he was the country's army chief when Thailand and Laos engaged in a brief border war at Ban Romkhlaio. Beijing provided huge amounts of ammunition for artillery guns that were used during the conflict.

What is happening now is a departure from the previous state of military ties between Thailand and China, particularly in the 1980s, when their relationship was anchored primarily in response to immediate threats posed by Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia. China was the only country which provided massive military assistance to Thailand that was meant to counter possible external threats.

At the peak of their relations in the 1980s, China also proposed the establishment of an arms reserve stockpile in Thailand to assist the country in case of emergency. However, the plan was not carried out due to strong domestic opposition and criticism from abroad.

While countries in the region have expressed concern over China's military might, Thailand has remained as the only country that has chosen to forge closer and deeper military ties with China. In the post-Cold War era, and with no obvious threat to Thai security, such a calculated move could have far-reaching ramifications. Worse, it could raise doubts over Thailand's intentions in the region.

Political analyst MR [Thai royal title] Sukhumphan Paribat of Chulalongkon University questioned whether the move is linked to Chawalit's recent proposal to establish a Nato-style security organization among the Southeast Asian countries.

He felt that a Thai-Chinese axis might emerge in the new multilateral security framework, which could eventually cast doubts over Thailand's commitment to the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), a regionwide security forum for countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Thai-Chinese relations have improved rapidly under the Banhan administration. It must be noted that Thailand remained silent throughout the Chinese military manoeuvres in Taiwan Strait. During his visit to China, Banhan strongly expressed his support to China's position on the Taiwan issue.

The latest grant also comes at the time when foreign military assistance to Thailand is dwindling, although the U.S. continues to provide financial assistance for the training and education of Thai military personnel. The U.S. gave \$1 million last year and \$1.4 million this year for this purpose. If this trend continues, Beijing will become the leading military aid donor. As such, this could inevitably make China the leading arms exporter to Thailand too.

The closer the military ties between Thailand and China become, the higher the level of concerns among neighbouring countries suspicious of Thailand. During the Cambodian conflict, Thailand was viewed by many as part of China's extended strategic bridgehead. That impression has not faded away.

While concentrating on Thailand, China has also moved closer to Southeast Asia. Asean is now considering Beijing's proposal to conclude a joint political declaration to ensure that both Asean and China can live peacefully without the use of forces. China is expected to join India and other countries soon as a dialogue partner of Asean.

But generally speaking, not all Asean countries share the same enthusiasm of having China in their midst. Some are more suspicious of China than others. For practical reasons, Asean countries agreed unanimously that the best way to engage China is to do it within existing

Asean frameworks, eg, improving China's status with Asean and ensuring that China does not leave the ARF.

For Thailand, the best way to engage China in a broader and strategic relation in the long term is to act in tandem with Asean and the ARF. Attempting to do it alone at this juncture, for whatever reasons, with one of the world's most secretive and powerful countries is very dangerous and could be counterproductive.

Thailand: Air Services Accord Signed With Russian Federation

BK1904073596 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The signing ceremony of air services agreement between Thailand and the Russian Federation took place yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok, with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Charat Phuachuai and Minister Oleg V. Bostorin, ambassador of the Russian Federation to Thailand representing the two governments as signatories.

Negotiations for the air services agreement was carried out between aeronautical authorities of Thailand headed by Deputy Director General of The Department of Aviation Sawat Sitthiwong and their counterparts from the Russian Federation headed by Mr (V. K. Pavlicht), director of International Relations, Department of Air Transport of Russia, during 20-21 June [as heard] in Bangkok.

The agreement is in compliance with other bilateral aviation agreements concluded between Thailand and other countries. Under the agreement, both Thailand and the Russian Federation can carry traffic from Moscow-Bangkok-Moscow, and Hanoi and/or Ho Chi Minh City, and/or Vientiane-Bangkok-Moscow with the frequency of three flights per week. The agreement will further strengthen bilateral and regional relationship, which will not only enhance the aviation cooperation but also contribute positively to trade, investment, and tourism between the two countries. Moreover, it will also serve Thailand's policy to be developed into a regional aviation hub.

Thailand has so far signed air agreements with 39 countries. There are 30 world airlines operating scheduled flights to Thailand from 58 countries with the total of 574 flights a week.

Thailand: Article Notes Ways To Curb Current Account Deficit

BK1904073696 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES
in English 19 Apr 96 p B1

[Report by Chanthana Raknakha]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok: The committee responsible for alleviating the country's rising current account deficit yesterday launched five additional measures to help Thailand out of its fiscal deficit, said Deputy Finance Minister Amnuai Wirawan.

According to Amnuai, the first measure will focus on Thailand's exports. The export value this year is expected to be higher than that of last year which stood at 1.4 billion baht.

"The government will support the export of industrial products by implementing tax measures and will also raise the quantity agricultural products exported," said Amnuai. "The export value is therefore expected to rise at the targeted level."

"The second measure will involve promoting local savings by increasing the amount of life insurance premium which can be deducted from personal income tax from 10,000 baht to 30,000 baht," Amnuai said.

However, the committee yesterday assigned the Finance Ministry to study the measure before it is legislated.

"This measure will make life insurance firms more stable as they will have more customers," he said.

As for the last measure concerning maritime activities, Amnuai said, it will cover tax reductions for entrepreneurs in the maritime business and the exemption of personal income tax from crews operating ships.

In addition, the meeting forged another two measures to reduce the current account deficit through promoting tourism.

"The first measure is to promote Thailand as a center for international conferences, which will help increase the numbers of tourists visiting the country," explained Amnuai.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand has a vision to construct another three international conference centers in Phuket, Phatthaya and Hat Yai.

The second plan is to increase tourist expenditures. In the plan, Thailand will import goods which cannot be produced within the country, in order that they can be sold to tourists.

On Tuesday, Cabinet approved five measures proposed by the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Thailand,

to curb the soaring current account deficit as well as inflation.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by representatives from the Office of the Maritime Promotion Commission, the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, the Finance Ministry, the Commerce Ministry and the Bank of Thailand.

Thai Editorial Blames Premier for Neglecting Domestic Problems

BK1904075596 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES
in English 19 Apr 96 p A4

[Editorial: "Is Banhan's Diplomatic Sojourn Vital?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The former prime minister Chuan Likphai and incumbent Banhan Sinlapa-acha have much in common. They seem to be on a somewhat parallel course where it is hard to distinguish one from the other. Both men have served and held ministerial positions for various coalitions under different heads of government, if not the same, in the past decade or so.

The two took over leadership of their respective parties after the 1992 May uprising. Both weather-beaten politicians have had the honor of leading their parties to victory in subsequent elections held over the past three years. Each have held the premiership and the office of the leader of the opposition, alternatively facing each other in parliament.

Just as there is little chance for anyone to mount a serious threat or challenge to Banhan's seat in Suphan Buri, so is the case against Chuan in his stronghold Trang. Understandably, these two veterans have, as MPs, as ministers and as prime ministers, done more to benefit their home constituencies and consolidate their own seats than they have for the nation as a whole.

Although they sit in the opposite camps of the house of representatives there are many similarities in their political views and approach.

They have both tried to score points in the international arena while at the helms of power and both have also taken refuge in their external triumphs to cover up their internal failures.

When their popularity sagged and their approach to the political, economic or social issues at home was questioned, both men have taken the easiest way out. They ran away from reality by taking excursions overseas and have managed to get away with it all.

For instance, when farmers and poor rural folks who marched to Bangkok failed to meet the agricultural minister to talk their eviction from traditional lands

to build a dam with little or no compensation, they appealed to the then prime minister Chuan Likphai to intervene and redress their grievances without avail. At the height of the dilemma, Chuan took a flight to attend the World Social and Poverty Eradication Conference in Europe. At the conference he made a speech to over 100 heads of participating nations on how governments can raise the living standards of citizens with a more equal distribution of wealth and welfare. He told the global leaders gathered how industrial and economic growth helps bring better life styles to the rural populations. He had forgotten that charity begins at home.

Not surprisingly, when the ongoing farmers' crisis came up again, a legacy from the Chuan government, current Prime Minister Banhan Silpaarcha took a similar flight to Beijing. Among other things he is reported to have bragged about how he showed his concern and counseled Chinese leaders who represent 1.2 billion people how to live in peace. It is said he cautioned Chinese leadership to stop the military exercises of playing with fire power and to stop acting like a big dragon trying to swallow up all the small ones around.

It is said Banhan warned the Chinese that their behavior would send the wrong signals to would-be global investors about the region. Adding a silver lining to his approach, the CTP [Chat Thai Party] leader is reported to have pointed out that after all, the Chinese people are one nation and the intentions were not to interfere in the internal affairs of China. He said dialogue and a peaceful settlement of their conflicts will do an abundance of good to people not only in China, but the whole East Asian region in its development and economic growth.

On his return from that spree, he found the throngs of rural people marching to the capital had swelled rather than dwindled. Taking a cue from Chuan, he refused to talk to them, assigning others to do so. Eventually, just as in the case of Chuan, Banhan was forced to meet the demonstrators. The gimmick of international lime light and pips on their shoulder did not pay for either of them.

Like his predecessor, Banhan penned and curtailed the movements of the poor demonstrators into a dark soi near the government house. He barricaded them and left a swarm of policemen to hover over the ordinary underprivileged people who only demanded that the premier listen to their plight and make an early settlement without prolonging their suffering. In similar assurances to Chuan, he promised to "look into the matter" saying the matter would need work. This only is a way of buying time by setting no targets for a settlement.

Is Banhan's diplomatic sojourn more important than making a concrete effort to overcome the sufferings of

the poor? One of them have already paid the supreme price with his life while awaiting justice. Isn't he responsible for the welfare of the people as prime minister of the country?

Words of consolation for buying time and handing "the baby" to others have been the usual practice and trademark of leaders instead of trying to cope with the issues.

Both Chuan and Banhan have demonstrated their wayward attitude and approach to issues involving the poor with the quick actions to defuse matters that would lead to calamity in the business circles.

The last general election was a consequence of the disparities and the widening gap between the rich and the poor, resulting in the Chuan administration being thrown out of power.

If Banhan also fails to make a comprehensive and lasting settlement immediately to redress the grievances of the poor, the nation may be witness to not only growing social instability, but may also be surprised if an early election is forced upon the government relieving the current administration of its powers.

Vietnam

SRV: U.S. Army Sergeant Allegedly Killed in Vietnam Reappears

BK1804135796 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Weekly QUOC TE on 17 April quoted the Hong Kong-based U.S. paper (?WORLD NEWS REPORTER) as saying that a U.S. Army sergeant — who was allegedly killed in Vietnam and listed as missing in action — has suddenly shown up at a U.S. social welfare office to ask for welfare assistance, causing shock to his family in Hawaii and embarrassment to the U.S. Army. He is Sergeant (Talbot), now 73, whose name has been engraved on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington.

(Talbot) disappeared from his U.S. Army unit in February 1970 when he was stationed in Saigon. According to a document, he was last seen preparing to leave Saigon. Nothing has been heard about him since. Apparently (Talbot) left his unit without permission and returned to California where he lived with a woman for 26 years. It was not until 1973 when (Talbot's) younger brother in Hawaii wrote the U.S. Army requesting information about him that the U.S. Army discovered that this sergeant was missing. Initially, the Army listed him as a deserter but in 1979, due to family pressure, the U.S. Army concluded that the sergeant was killed rather

than deserted his unit and that his remains were missing.

Recently the woman whom he lived with left him and entered a nursing home for senior citizens. As there was no one else to depend on, he was forced to show up at a social welfare office to ask for assistance. It is not known if Mr. (Talbot) is the only such case involving U.S. missing in action. A Radio Voice of Vietnam reporter has contacted the U.S. MIA office in Hanoi for confirmation of this report. There have been no comments on this report from the U.S. MIA office in Hanoi.

SRV: Spokesperson Comments on Oil Exploration, Repatriation

BK1804122096 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Sep 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our Foreign Ministry held a regular international news conference in Hanoi this afternoon on some issues of concern to the world and local press. Many correspondents from national and international mass media agencies attended the press conference.

In answering a question from a foreign correspondent about whether any talks had been held between the SRV and PRC Governments after the signing of the business cooperation contract between the Vietnam Petro Corporation and Conoco Vietnam Exploration and Production, our Foreign Ministry spokesperson clearly stated: We see no demand to hold talks on this issue. As was clearly confirmed in the 12 April statement of the SRV Foreign Ministry spokesperson, the signing of the business cooperation contract with the Conoco Company on lots 133 and 134 of the Vietnamese continental shelves is totally within Vietnam's sovereignty and jurisdiction; it merely continues tasks that have been carried out for many years and is completely in conformity with international law. All actions aimed at intervention and hindrance are illegal, running counter to international law and causing instability in the region.

Replying to a question from a foreign correspondent about Malaysia's repatriation of Vietnamese people from refugee camps in Malaysia by ship, our Foreign Ministry spokesperson said: In order to speed up the orderly repatriation program of the Vietnamese people from refugee camps in Malaysia, the two sides agreed to organize the repatriation by ship. On this occasion, we would like to add that the agreed principle of repatriation has not been changed. The agreed principle is that of a voluntary, orderly, and safe repatriation with respect for human dignity and with international finance assistance. We do not accept forced repatriation.

SRV: Chinese Party Delegation Meets With Politburo Member

BK1804100696 Hanoi VNA in English 0706 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 18 — A Chinese delegation, led by Zheng Keyang - deputy head of the rural policy research center of the Communist Party of China Secretariat, paid a working visit to Vietnam from April 8-17.

The Chinese guests were received by Mr Nguyen Duc Binh, politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and met with officials from the party's commissions.

Host and guest compared notes on the party work, and exchanged experiences drawn from 10 years' implementation of economic reforms in Vietnam.

The Chinese guests made tours of economic establishments and places of historic and cultural interest in provinces of Quang Ninh, Hai Hung, Tien Giang, and Ho Chi Minh City.

Hanoi, Beijing Sign Meteorological Cooperation Accord

BK1804144296 Hanoi VNA in English 1419 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 18 — Vietnam and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Hanoi today to pave the way for bilateral cooperation in weather forecasting, meteorological information and study, as well as equipment supply and personnel training in this regard.

The signing took place during a visit to Vietnam by a delegation of the Chinese Meteorological Department headed by its deputy head, Mr Wen Ke Gang, which arrived here on April 15.

While in Vietnam, the visiting Chinese meteorologists have also toured Vietnam's hydro-meteorological stations in some regions of Hanoi as well as central and southern areas of the country.

SRV: Le Kha Phieu Reaffirms Solidarity With Cuba

BK1804144396 Hanoi VNA in English 1427 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 18 — Party politburo member Le Kha Phieu has reaffirmed the unswerving solidarity of the communist party, the government and people of Vietnam with the Cuban revolution.

He was speaking at his meeting here yesterday with a delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba (CPC) led by Alberto Rodriguez Arufe, deputy head of the External Relations Commission of the CPC Central Committee, and his entourage now on a visit to Vietnam.

Mr. Le Kha Phieu, who is also secretary of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Communist Party (VCP), highly valued the Vietnam visit by Comrade Fidel Castro late last year and gave a briefing of the current situation in Vietnam, including the preparations for the coming eighth CPV national congress.

He expressed his joy at the recent economic changes for the better in Cuba and he said he believed that Cuba will find appropriate approaches, overcome current difficulties and move forward steadily. He also expressed his wish for further development of the friendship and cooperation between the two parties, governments and peoples.

Mr. Arufe, for his part, spoke highly of the achievements of the Vietnamese people's national renovation, saying that these are also achievements and a source of encouragement for the cause of socialism as well as for all revolutionary and progressive forces throughout the world.

While in Vietnam, the Cuban party delegation had working sessions with the External Relations Commission, and other commissions of the CPV Central Committee. It also called at the party committee of Hanoi and was warmly received by its secretary Pham The Duyet. It left Hanoi today to begin its tour of Thua Thien-Hue and Lam Dong Provinces, and Ho Chi Minh City.

SRV: Thai Foreign Minister Ends Four-Day Official Visit

*BK1804150196 Hanoi VNA in English
1435 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 18 — Thai Foreign Minister Kasemsamson Kasemsi, his wife and entourage left Ho Chi Minh City today, ending their four-day official visit to Vietnam.

Leaving Hanoi on April 16, the Thai foreign minister visited Ho Chi Minh City. He was feted by vice chairman of the people's committee of the city Vo Viet Thanh on April 17. Host and guest expressed their satisfaction at the rapid development of the all round cooperation in recent years. They believed that this visit would promote the cooperation between Ho Chi Minh City and Thai localities and branches to a new level.

During his stay in Ho Chi Minh City, the Thai foreign minister called at a Thai company located in the Bien Hoa industrial zone, an exhibition held on the occasion

of 50th anniversary of Thai king's coronation, some places of interest, and met with media workers.

SRV: NHAN DAN Deputy Editor, Delegation Visit Laos

*BK1904081596 Hanoi VNA in English
0756 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 19 — Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the NHAN DAN daily Duc Luong headed a delegation of the press to visit Laos from April 11-18 as guest of the Vientiane daily Pasason.

While in Laos the delegation was received by Mr. Osakan Thammathavea, politburo Member Of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP), and head of the Propaganda and Training Commission of the LPRP Central Committee. He briefed the Vietnamese journalists on the success of the ninth national congress of the LPRP and experience drawn from the renovation process.

He said that the LPRP is still building a Lao people's democratic state, maintaining the characteristics of the Lao tribes, and taking of the country forward along the road of socialism.

The delegation exchanged views with editorial staff at Pasason on the progress of each paper in disseminating the viewpoints and guidelines of their parties in the renovation process of each country, on personnel training and management of the papers, and the exchange of experience between the two newspapers.

The Vietnamese journalists also visited some localities and economic establishments in Vientiane, Champassak and Saravane, a hydroelectric power plant, and a number of cultural and historical relics of the Lao tribes. They also joined in the Lao people's traditional new year festival.

The leading officials of Pasason highly valued the successful cooperation and mutual assistance between the two papers and expressed their wish for further development of cooperation.

SRV: Overseas Vietnamese Urged To Aid National Reconstruction

*BK1804090496 Hanoi VIETNAM INVESTMENT
REVIEW in English 1-7 Apr 96 p 6*

[Commentary by Duong Hoai Nam, member of the Central Committee Commission for External Affairs]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since the "doi moi" (renovation) policy went into effect in 1986, political leaders in

Vietnam have increasingly recognised the great potential of overseas Vietnamese communities in the reconstruction and development of the country. Vietnamese refugees - Viet Kieu - resettled in almost every country in the world.

In January 1993, it was decided to initiate and coordinate all activities related to the overseas Vietnamese. Eighteen months later, a decree was promulgated, replacing the Central Commission on Viet Kieu by the Committee on Vietnamese Residing in Foreign Countries.

This new committee was given more power and responsibilities equivalent to those of a cabinet ministry. One of the most important tasks of the Committee on Vietnamese Residing in Foreign Countries is to call for contributions of the overseas Vietnamese in the reconstruction and development of Vietnam.

The new name of the agency also implies an informal recognition of the legal status of those Vietnamese have become citizens of foreign nations. This was one significant step towards welcoming overseas Vietnamese, making them feel more comfortable in their decision to participate in the task off rebuilding the country.

A series of legal documents, including circulars, decrees and resolutions have been published, specifying rights and privileges of overseas Vietnamese in their investment/business ventures, humanitarian programmes, or their technical assistance and training activities in Vietnam.

Top-ranking officials such as General Secretary Do Muoi, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai have repeatedly appealed to overseas Vietnamese to "close the painful chapter of past history, and salvage the nation from being a poor and backward country in the world community."

Overseas Vietnamese have already made important contributions to the economic development of Vietnam. Vietnamese have sent relatives money amounting to between US\$200-US\$300 million a year. Such remittances have increased dramatically with every passing year.

Vietnamese Government officials estimate that, during a 10-year period between 1991 and 2000, overseas Vietnamese will have contributed US\$7 billion - one-third of the total investment needed - and about 14 per cent of the total capital to be invested by the whole nation in this decade.

This unofficial foreign aid by two million overseas Vietnamese (more than half of whom live in the United States) is in addition to direct investment by overseas Vietnamese business people who so far have

signed investment agreements totaling more than US\$80 million.

As far as the transfer of knowledge and technology is concerned, the contribution of overseas Vietnamese remains far below expectations. According to the information provided by the Committee on Vietnamese Residing in Foreign Countries, there are currently more than 300,000 overseas Vietnamese who are university educated. Not only can overseas Vietnamese pass on their professional knowledge and technical skills as much as non-Vietnamese professionals, but they can do it better than foreigners because they speak the same language and especially because they are so sentimentally attached to their country and their people.

Despite that, only a small fraction of this number has returned, many of whom are experts of international banking institutions, or senior staff of foreign business firms or non-governmental organisations.

The overseas Vietnamese community has great potential in bringing the expertise needed for the industrialisation and modernisation process of Vietnam. Tens of thousands of overseas Vietnamese scientists and professionals are working in reputable research centers, in big business or manufacturing companies around the world. They possess the most up-to date skills in effective management techniques.

How can we mobilise large sources of capital and this valuable experience from overseas Vietnamese communities, and channel them into cooperative undertakings for national reconstruction and development?

That is the most urgent question to which we are striving to find satisfactory answers.

SRV: Local Rice Exports 'Accelerated' To Keep Prices 'Balanced'

BK1804090796 Hanoi VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW in English 1-7 Apr 96 p 7

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With 6.5 million tonnes of rice harvested in the Mekong delta, 500,000 tonnes more than at the same time last year, Vietnam expects rice exports to reach 1.2 million tonnes in the first half of 1996.

"Exports are being accelerated in an attempt by the Government to keep prices balanced," Hoang Van Sam, an expert from the Planning Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), said. In the first two months of 1996 Vietnam has sold just 350,000 tonnes abroad.

However, such large export totals for one term might cause difficulties, one rice exporter said.

To sustain exports, the Government must be flexible in its taxation policy regarding rice exporters, he said.

Presently, world rice prices have dropped US\$50-US\$60 per tonne. Export taxes should be readjusted depending on the world market price to avoid devastating losses for exporters, he said.

MARD has recently moved to balance rice prices in both the north and the south of Vietnam. While the price of rice increased by VND[dong]100 per kilogramme in northern provinces and topped VND4,300 per kilogramme in Hanoi, it has plunged to VND3,700 per kilogramme in the south.

The ministry has encouraged commercial banks to assist rice traders in order to sustain the price in the Mekong delta and to protect rice producer profits.

MARD has transferred 90,000 tonnes of rice from the delta to the north since January and it plans to send an extra 20,00 tonnes this month.

Another 80,000 tonnes of paddy has been taken from national reserves for use in northern provinces. But according to MARD, to settle the price imbalance between the north and the south will require an additional transfer of 150,000 to 200,000 tonnes of rice.

Vietnam sold 2.05 million tonnes of rice abroad in 1995, becoming the world's fourth largest rice exporter after the United States, Thailand and India.

SRV: Police Record Success Against Smuggling in North

*BK1604101996 Hanoi VNA in English
0633 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 16 — The police in nine coastal provinces from Ha Tinh northwards have detected 89 smuggling cases and confiscated contraband worth VND [Vietnamese dong] 18 billion (some USD [U.S. dollars] 1.5 million) over the past five months.

These figures were announced at a meeting held yesterday in the northern border province of Quang Ninh to review the implementation of the prime minister's instruction on smuggling control in the region under the chairmanship of Mr or General Le The Tiem, vice minister of interior.

The economics police alone discovered 33 smuggling cases which involved 115 persons and detected 73 cases of tax evasion, helping tax offices to recollect VND 5.8 billion (more than USD 500,000) for the state budget.

The largest cases included the discovery of a merchant ship 'Seaprodex 07' smuggling 36 kinds of contraband goods (valued at nearly VND one billion) from Japan and the collaboration between the Hong Hai Shipping Company of Military Zone 3 with two other firms to smuggle 2,200 tonnes of rice into China.

These cases will be brought to court for trial soon. The security forces have also made big efforts in coordination with local authorities, customs officer, border guards and other relevant agencies in the fight against smuggling. Consequently, sea-borne smuggling has been on the decrease.

SRV: Some Thoughts on Buddhism in Today's Vietnam

*963E0010C Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN
in Vietnamese No. 15, Nov 95 pp 30-33*

[Article by Nguyen Tai Thu and Ho Trong Hoai]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Buddhism is the largest religious denomination in our country today. There are 10 million Buddhists as compared with 5 million Catholics, 2.5 million Caodaists, 1.5 million followers of the Hoa Hao faith, and 500,000 Protestants. [Footnote 1] [Based on a report of the Mass Agitation Department of the Central Committee and the government's Religious Affairs Committee] If we add those who practice their faith at home but who are not listed as Buddhists and those who make pilgrimages and attend the pagoda's services only occasionally, the number of Buddhists is even larger.

Buddhism has the longest history of any religion in our country. It first entered Vietnam about 2,000 years ago, and by the 2d Century it held a notable position in the beliefs and spiritual lives of the people in Luy Lau (now Thuan Thanh and Ha Bac).

To survive to the present, Vietnamese Buddhism has undergone many renovations with respect to both contents and forms of activity. Disregarding the distant past and talking only about the period from the beginning of this century to the present, Buddhism has undergone constant reform and renovation, such as the revitalization of Buddhism in the 1920's and 1930's and the movement to protect "Buddhist law" in the 1960s and beginning of the 1970s. This renovation has continued to the present and is manifested most clearly in the viewpoints and policies on religion and religious activities.

Since the country was reunified, in general, Buddhists have strictly adhered to the religious policies of the party and government and the policies of the Vietnam Buddhist Church. However, there are still a few people who

hold different views concerning freedom of religious activities and human rights, and this has caused certain disturbances in society and made many people anxious.

The above situation poses urgent questions in the sphere of understanding. For example, is Buddhism of any value to modern society? If it is, where is that manifested? Buddhism has some limitations. How are these limitations manifested? So that Buddhism can grow normally, what unresolved problems must be overcome? Answering the above questions requires a process of research, analysis, and evaluation as well as finding solutions. In this article, we would simply like to give a few initial thoughts. [passage omitted]

Most people who go to the pagoda today know little about the world view and profound philosophy of Buddhism. They do not know how to use the rational factors of Buddhism to benefit themselves, other people, and the country. Moreover, they serve the Buddha only in order to gain good fortune and ward off bad luck, and some do so for temporary material purposes. At many pagodas, near the altar, you can also see people using divining sticks, drawing their horoscopes, consulting the mediums, and so on. There are even people who go to the pagoda in the hope Buddha will help them cover up their improper deeds. In front of the altar, they ask the Buddha to strike the public security forces and tax collectors "blind, deaf, and dumb" so that they will not be prosecuted for their crimes and so that they can "win" in the market mechanism economy, which is still disorderly. Such things are clearly a disgrace to Buddhism. Such things reduce an intellectual religion to the level of a vulgar and common creed.

The positive factors of Buddhism, above all the responsibilities of Buddhist monks and laymen, must be manifested in society today. But because of the circumstances of their religious habits, they don't fully see the rational factors and can't distinguish between what is of value

and what is outmoded in their religion. Only people standing outside and at the forefront of social life can view Buddhism in an objective and complete way and, based on this, make choices, improve things, and exploit those factors that still have value today.

In Vietnam, Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought are the party's ideological foundation and compass for revolutionary action; these are the theories that lead our spiritual and social life. This is our basic orientation, and it is something that the party has affirmed many times. However, the party has clearly pointed out that standing on the foundation of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought, we must study and accept the positive aspects of other ideological currents in order to constantly enrich the party's ideological system. Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Ho Chi Minh all did this with respect to their theories.

As a religion, Buddhism will survive for a long time among the people. It will take time to understand and solve many of the theoretical and practical problems, such as the issue of Buddhist involvement in worldly matters (that is, the relationship between religion and politics), views on religious morals and social morals, the issue of religious beliefs and scientific beliefs, the relationship between beliefs in general and the cultural activities of the people, and so on. When the opportunity arises, we will continue to discuss these issues in greater depth. But something that is clear today is that only if a religion manifests its true values will it be able to maintain the faith of the Vietnamese people today and in the future. Conversely, if it is concerned only with satisfying shallow and ordinary psychological needs, it will soon be passed by. Today's scientific and technical standards provide the most efficient system for examining the value of all ideological currents and traditional beliefs, including Buddhism.

Australia

Australia: Government Backs U.S.-Japanese Declaration on Security

LD1804105996 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1000 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's prime minister, John Howard, has welcomed the affirmation of the Japan-United States relationship by President Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto. Mr. Howard said the two leaders had emphasized the enduring contribution of the relationship to the region and the world. He said the Japan-U.S. alliance is fundamental to the security and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. The Australian Government strongly supported the joint declaration on security issued by the two leaders. Mr. Howard said Australia would work closely with Japan and the United States to achieve shared goals.

Australia: Downer Says Israeli Bombing in Lebanon Appalling

LD1904084796 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer says the overnight bombing in southern Lebanon proves the urgent need for a negotiated settlement. Catherine McGrath reports from Singapore, where Mr. Downer is continuing his Asian tour.

[Begin McGrath recording] Mr. Downer says the bombing is an appalling and tragic incident, and one that proves the need for an urgent settlement.

[Downer] Look, the simple fact is the only path of peace is to follow the peace accords and military solutions will not be solutions in the end. There is no military solution to the problems of southern Lebanon and northern Israel. A negotiated settlement has to proceed. A negotiated settlement is the only solution and the sooner that is pursued the better. [end recording]

Australia: Fischer Backs Call for Four-Sided Talks on Korea

LD1804114996 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia is supporting a proposal for peace talks involving North and South Korea, China and the United States. Australia's deputy prime minister, Tim Fischer, said the call for a four-party meeting by the presidents of South Korea and the United States is a valuable initiative. Mr. Fischer said the proposal is an important step in efforts to reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula. He has urged the North Korean government to accept the proposal and abide by the

armistice agreement until a permanent peace agreement can be achieved.

Australia: Singapore Assures Downer of Support for ASEM Bid

BK1904023596 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has been reassured by Singapore that it will support Australia's bid to join the next Asia-Europe summit [ASEM]. Catherine McGrath reports the commitment was made during a meeting in Singapore between Mr. Downer and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

[Begin McGrath recording] Alexander Downer has set himself the foreign policy objective of inclusion in the next Asia-Europe summit and he has already begun lobbying Malaysia — the country behind Australia's exclusion — and now Singapore has reaffirmed its commitment it gave to the Keating government that it supports Australian participation.

In an hour-long meeting yesterday afternoon, Singapore's Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong discussed trade and investment links between the two countries and told Mr. Downer that he looks forward to the continued strengthening of ties between Australia and Singapore. [end recording]

Australia: 'Rift' With Vietnam Feared if Bridge Project Canceled

LD1804131296 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There are concerns of a rift developing between Australia and Vietnam following suggestions a multimillion-dollar aid project be cancelled. Comments by Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer, have thrown into doubt the building of a bridge over the Mekong River in southern Vietnam. The [previous] Australian Government signed an agreement last year to fund the \$65 million project, which would be built by Australian companies. Mr. Downer says the money could be better spent in other areas and he has ordered an immediate review.

Vietnam's ambassador to Australia, Tran Tuan Anh, has told Australia's SBS Television's "Insight" program the cancellation of the My Thuan bridge project could damage Australia's reputation in the region.

[Begin Tran Tuan Anh recording, in English] If the bridge is to be cancelled it might stand in the way of making every effort to strengthen the relations between

the two countries. And furthermore, the ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] countries will judge how Australia acts in this area.[end recording]

Australia: McLachlan Discusses Joint New Zealand Defense Force

BK1904054696 Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 19 Apr 96

[Article by defense correspondent David Lague — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An arms build-up in the potentially unstable Asia-Pacific region along with the soaring cost of high-technology weapons is increasing the pressure for a joint Australian and New Zealand defence force.

Senior defence officials from both countries have acknowledged this week that a joint force could maximise defence firepower as tension on the Korean Peninsula and across the Taiwan Strait threaten regional security.

The minister for defence, Mr. Ian McLachlan, agreed on Wednesday with a suggestion from New Zealand's Defence Secretary, Mr. Gerald Hensley, that the strain on military budgets could force the two governments to consider combining military forces.

"It is a bit of a political difficulty for people who like to keep their own separateness, but I think we will be forced to that over time," Mr. McLachlan said on a visit to New Zealand which ended yesterday.

"Financial pressures force you to look at all the things you do, rather than having a pepperpot of things happening in both countries.

"It may not be absolutely formal, but if we are smart we will make sure we don't have duplication and that we do take augmentation as far as possible."

Mr. McLachlan said Australia's defence ties with New Zealand were its strongest security relationship. The 1994 Defence White Paper said both countries expected that if either was threatened, the other would come to its aid. The New Zealand military has maintained close links with Australian forces.

The Australian and New Zealand armies combined in a joint assault on the beaches at Gallipoli in 1915 that had a major bearing on the traditions of both forces.

New Zealand's 17,000-strong defence force is small but would add firepower to the 94,400-strong Australian Defence Force. Both countries have similar military organisations and weapons, and exercise regularly together.

New Zealand has so far ordered two Australian-made Anzac frigates, which will boost the Royal New Zealand Navy's capability to operate with the Australian fleet.

The former Labor government in Canberra complained that New Zealand's defence spending of about 1.4 per cent of gross domestic product, compared with Australia's spending of 2 per cent, meant Wellington was not pulling its weight.

Mr. McLachlan again raised New Zealand's spending this week, but avoided criticising Wellington. He told his New Zealand counterpart, Mr. Paul East, that economic growth in Asia meant many regional powers were buying new high-technology weapons. This meant Australia was going to be increasingly vigilant in its area of interest.

While Mr. McLachlan was signalling a long-term defence shift, the prime minister, Mr. John Howard, yesterday suggested that Australia may modify some of its relationships in the Asia-Pacific.

One relationship that may change is with Vietnam, with the government's decision to review Australia's \$40 million aid project to build a bridge over the Mekong River at My Thuan.

Vietnam's Ambassador to Canberra, Mr. Tran Van Tung, said last night on SBS television that cancelling the project could undermine efforts to strengthen ties between the two countries.

Canberra Elected To Chair OECD's Industry Committee

BK1404124296 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia has been elected to chair the Industry Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Federal Industry Minister John Moore says the move is a major achievement and clear recognition by the OECD of Australia's potential to lead international policy development. The OECD committee is a forum for developing industry policy concerning the impact of competition, globalization, and structural change on industry. Mr. Moore says Australia will now be able to inject a stronger voice from the Asia-Pacific region into the organization.

Fiji

Fiji Protests Israeli Attack on UN Base

LD1904085096 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fiji has sent a diplomatic note to Israel protesting against the artillery attack

on the United Nations post which was held by Fiji peacekeepers. Four Fiji soldiers were wounded in the shelling, three seriously. Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, who is visiting Australia, says he has spoken with the Israeli ambassador to Australia.

[Begin Rabuka recording] We cannot single out Israel because it is a retaliatory action on their part. It is sad that it has escalated to what it has become. And it is a very, well it is an intimate concern for us that four of our own soldiers have been wounded as a result of the bombing. [end recording]

Mr. Rabuka says the four injured soldiers, part of a 600-strong Fiji peacekeeping force in Lebanon, are stable and recovering in hospital in Haifa.

New Zealand

New Zealand: Defense Minister, Australian Counterpart Hold Talks

BK1804033196 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 0100 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's defense minister, Ian McLachlan, says financial pressures may ultimately force Australia and New Zealand to have joint armed forces. Speaking after his first meeting with New Zealand's defense minister, Paul East, in Wellington, Mr. McLachlan said Australia's defense relationship with New Zealand is probably the closest it has been or it had actually with any country.

Mr. McLachlan said a policy of augmentation where Australia and New Zealand could combine responses in a crisis was a main plank in closer defense relationship. He was commenting on a suggestion by New Zealand's defense secretary, Gerald (Hensley), at a Military Studies Institute conference in Wellington this week.

New Zealand: Paper Views Australia's Joint 'Defense' Suggestion

BK1904125896 Christchurch THE PRESS in English
19 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Neighbourly Defence" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] How the defence relationship between New Zealand and Australia will work itself out has long been a point of discussion between the two nations. Ian McLachlan, Australia's Defence Minister, thinks financial pressures might ultimately force New Zealand and Australia to join forces. Like Paul East, New Zealand's Defence Minister, with whom he came here to confer, Mr McLachlan has not long held his portfolio, but it is interesting that he, a Liberal Party member, has made a suggestion not unlike that of

Senator Robert Ray, his Labor Party predecessor. In 1991 the senator suggested that Zealand and Australia might have integrated forces within 15 years. Neither Government seemed keen to pursue Senator Ray's idea at the time or since.

Mr McLachlan's visit coincided with a conference at the Military Studies Institute at Trentham. Gerald Hensley, the New Zealand Secretary of Defence, gave a paper there on the development of the defence relationship with Australia under closer defence relations — a process initiated by politicians but dubbed by Mr Hensley himself. Mr Hensley argues that the process does not specify where the journey might end. He characterises it as evolutionary, as a process, not a goal, and as "moving forward at a pace and in a direction that each side is comfortable with".

No fundamental contradiction exists between the McLachlan and Hensley scenarios, nor is there any indication that the approach to defence will be much different under the new Australian Government.

Mr McLachlan's argument is that New Zealand and Australia should avoid duplication and that by planning together they could have complementary forces. He is making an observation, not advocating a line of action. Mr Hensley was describing how closer defence relations had developed and characterising the style.

The continuing defence relationship has to be seen in the context of regional developments and the end of the Cold War. Most defence establishments around the world were affected by the end of the East-West conflict, but the changes were less pronounced in New Zealand and Australia, partly because consideration of security issues had already mostly focused on the region rather than on the whole world. Some observers detected attempts to establish another threat to justify defence spending, but juggling regional risks rather than facing threats was determining the outlook in both countries.

The principle of defence co-operation between New Zealand and Australia makes sense. Some New Zealanders have advocated defence separation from Australia, but that should be rejected outright. Although the two countries do not have identical strategic situations — New Zealand, for example, has a wide moat which Australia does not have — the destinies of the two countries are entwined by links too numerous to list and their geography binds them together.

The questions are about the extent and the pace of defence co-operation. The most marked example of intimate co-operation is the stationing of No. 2 Squadron of the RNZAF [Royal New Zealand Air Force] — a Skyhawk squadron — at Nowra, New South Wales.

This deployment was requested by Australia but control remains with New Zealand.

No treaty governs closer defence relations. It is a loose arrangement and what is detailed is mostly practical. However, it gives rise to basic questions about sovereignty. Should a country's security be based on assumptions of co-operation with another country? Australia spends a bigger proportion of its gross domestic product on defence than does New Zealand — nearly twice as much, in fact. Would a more intimate relationship require more expenditure on our part, and would that be politically possible here? Nor is closer co-operation solely a matter of equipment and the size of the forces. Knowledge of the region is a key element in security planning and New Zealand's resources in this sphere are much more limited than those of Australia.

Mr McLachlan might be right that cost pressures will one day force New Zealand and Australia to combine their defence forces, but Mr Hensley's gradualist position makes sense in the meantime. New Zealand should, because of self-interest, extend co-operation with Australia and build up a much greater understanding of East Asia forthwith.

New Zealand: Deputy Premier on Antarctic Program Bill

BK1904133396 Christchurch THE PRESS in English
19 Apr 96

[Unattributed Report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A bill that will set up a body to co-ordinate New Zealand's Antarctic programme from July 1 has been referred to a parliamentary select committee for public comment.

The bill will establish a new Christchurch-based Crown entity, the New Zealand Antarctic Institute.

This will amalgamate the operations of the Ross Dependency Research Committee and the New Zealand Antarctic Programme, which is now run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Deputy Prime Minister Don McKinnon told Parliament yesterday the change was necessary to reinforce New Zealand's continuing commitment to the 14 million sq km [square kilometers] continent and to prepare for the future. In the next financial year New Zealand had to make some important decisions on its practical level of Antarctic operations, he said.

"These include the changes the United States is planning to make to its own Antarctic activities from 1998, when the US Navy will withdraw from Antarctic operations and Operation Deep Freeze will come to an end.

"Similarly the contribution of our own defence force, an integral part of our Antarctic activities for 40 years, will also change as Antarctic requirements change."

Mr McKinnon said a separately managed body, with accountability to the Government, would be better able to address these issues. The Government would retain responsibility of co-ordinating and defining policy through an Officials-Antarctic Committee which would be chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and report to the Minister responsible for Antarctic Affairs.

The environmental protection and monitoring procedures already in place would not be diminished or changed by the bill, he said.

Assets and staff employed by the Antarctic programme will be transferred to the institute.

Mr McKinnon said it was important the bill came into effect by July 1. This was so the institute could be up and running to take advantage of the 1997 Antarctic Treaty Meeting in Christchurch "to showcase itself and New Zealand as major Antarctic players".

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea: World Bank Told 80% of Reforms Implemented

BK1904072496 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 0500 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Papua New Guinea [PNG] has hit back at the World Bank after receiving 90 days notice to implement the Bank's economic reform package. Anne Barker reports Finance Minister Chris Haiveta claims PNG has already implemented most of the reforms.

[Begin Barker recording] In a letter sent yesterday, the World Bank gave PNG 90 days to implement the reforms agreed to as part of a \$358 million [currency not specified] economic restructuring package. Otherwise, it warned, the entire program would be canceled. After a visit to PNG in February, the Bank found the government had done virtually nothing to meet its requirements, but in a statement from Port Moresby Mr. Haiveta says PNG has implemented 80 percent of the reforms and is confident of completing the rest well before the 90-day deadline. A PNG Government delegation will be in Washington next week in a last bid to keep the program on track. [end recording]

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